

Bosnian presidency rejects ethnic split

SARAJEVO (AFP) — The Bosnian presidency will propose transforming Bosnia-Herzegovina into a federation but rejects a plan proposed by Croatia and Serbia for the division to be along ethnic lines, President Alija Izetbegovic said Friday. The 10-member presidency — apart from Mr. Izetbegovic who will remain in the Bosnian capital — will present the proposal to international mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg Saturday in Zagreb. Mr. Izetbegovic said the number of constituent parts into which Bosnia would be divided has not been decided by the presidency but that ethnic division in a confederation of these states "is rejected." The president, a Muslim, said he was remaining in Sarajevo because of his "obligations" here. Six presidency members flew out of Sarajevo Friday afternoon for Zagreb to join three other members to put the final touches to the proposal to create a federation. (see related story on page 8).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Iraq likely to accept sealing of missile sites

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq looks likely to agree to have its missile test sites sealed temporarily by the United Nations to prevent further usage, a U.N. source in Baghdad said.

By agreeing to a long-standing Iraqi demand for political talks, the United Nations has apparently made it easier for Baghdad to honourably accept the seal-off of the test sites.

"I doubt they will reject (the sealing)," the source told Reuters. "All indications are they will accept."

A new team of U.N. inspectors under American Mark Silver is to arrive in Baghdad Saturday to put seals on two Iraqi missile sites to prevent their being used by Baghdad for prohibited activities.

Iraq and the world body have been locked in a dispute over video surveillance at rocket test sites. Baghdad rejected a U.N. demand to have video cameras installed at sites immediately.

A U.N. team pulled out of

Baghdad Monday protesting Iraq's rejection of video surveillance.

U.N. surveillance aircraft Friday took aerial photos of two controversial missile test sites and detected activity, U.N. sources said.

But the sources refused to say if the activity was linked to a possible attempt by Iraq to remove machinery from the sites.

The sources, who insisted on anonymity, said some machinery appeared to be lying outside in the open. They said aerial photos also had been taken on Thursday.

Also Friday, state-run television broadcast film of what appeared to be extensive military manoeuvres with tanks and anti-aircraft weapons.

The half-hour show of the exercise, which announcers said occurred Friday, showed the weapons firing at dummy targets.

(Continued on page 10)

5 Israelis killed in Lebanon flare-up

MARJAYOUN (Agencies) — At least three Israeli soldiers were killed and five people wounded Friday as fighting escalated between Israeli forces and resistance fighters in Lebanon.

The increase in violence came as U.S. envoy Dennis Ross and Martin Indyk met Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and a Palestinian delegation in occupied Jerusalem to break a deadlock in the Middle East peace process (see separate story).

Friday's death raised to five the number of Israeli troops killed in the past two days.

On Thursday, two Israeli soldiers were killed and three wounded in an ambush claimed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC). Israeli vowed revenge.

Security sources said guerrillas ambushed an armoured patrol near Sojoud in the central sector of the zone, killing the three soldiers.

The clashes were followed by fierce artillery duels near the southern port city of Sidon that could be heard 20 kilometres away.

A Palestinian fighter and two Lebanese civilians were wounded earlier as Israeli helicopters

blasted a base near Beirut of the PFLP-GC in reprisal for Thursday's ambush.

Abu Hadi of the PFLP-GC showing journalists around part of the base, said three helicopters swept in from the sea and fired 18 missiles.

The base in Naameh, 20 kilometres from Beirut, has been the target of dozens of Israeli air strikes since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Two PFLP-GC buildings were hit and there were "several casualties," according to a Lebanese security official.

The Israeli army said the raid destroyed a PFLP-GC target in reprisal for the killing of two soldiers and wounding of three others on Thursday in the ambush claimed by the organisation.

An Israeli army spokesman said the helicopters returned safely to base.

The raid came after a senior Israeli official threatened to launch "painful, limited operations" in Lebanon in reprisal for attacks on soldiers in the buffer zone Israel occupies in southern Lebanon.

"You have to know where to go," he said.

(Continued on page 2)

Jordan has reservations over moving multilaterals

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's ambassador to the U.S. Fayez Al Tarawneh, who is also head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, said Thursday the Arab delegations participating in the third meeting of the steering committee of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process which concluded in Moscow Wednesday reiterated their principled stands as they did in previous meetings.

Dr. Tarawneh said the Jordanian delegation expressed reservations about holding the meetings of the multilateral talks on refugees in Tunis based on Jordan's conviction since all Arab countries are involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Tunisia is party to the conflict and cannot host such meetings.

"We prefer that this meeting and another hosted by Egypt be held in another neutral state, but Arab delegations participating in the meetings did not express an opposing view," he said.

"Our delegation stressed its reservation at the meeting, and warned Arab brethren of the outcome of such a precedent," he added.

The Arab states participating in the peace process, Dr. Tarawneh said, are continuing their coordination meetings at all levels.

He said the Jordanian delegation had in all the bilateral and multilateral meetings called for a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

His Majesty King Hussein has expressed this principle during his talks with U.S. officials in Washington recently, he said, adding: "I think U.S. circles now have become more understanding of Jordan's position, whether on the Middle East peace process or on its relations with its sister Arab states."

The chief Jordanian negotiator expressed his belief that the peace process is a long and complicated one, saying manoeuvres by the Israelis emerge now and then with the aim of obstructing progress in the talks. These manoeuvres aim to force the Arab parties to quit the negotiating table, but the Arabs are aware of these attempts, he said.

Dr. Tarawneh voiced hope that Russia would play a more active role in the process as a co-sponsor and said the internal situation in Russia should not affect its role in finding a settlement of the Middle East peace process.

Djerejian lauds tone of Moscow meetings, page 2

Israel may specify 'autonomy' territory

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel might reverse longstanding policy and negotiate clearly delineated areas for autonomy in the occupied territories to keep Jerusalem off the Mideast peace talks agenda, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday.

Israel vows not to yield East Jerusalem, but the Palestinians see that territory as the capital of a future state.

A U.S. compromise proposal for breaking the deadlocked talks would make Jerusalem an eventual subject for negotiation.

But Mr. Peres said he wants to keep it totally off the agenda for now. In exchange, he was ready to give in to a Palestinian request to delineate a politically autonomous area that would establish the framework for future Palestinian self-determination.

"Territorial jurisdiction lapses the coasts of Jerusalem," Mr. Peres told reporters after meeting with a senior American diplomat team. "The further back you go from Jerusalem, the best the chance for an agreement."

The remarks were significant because until now, Israel has only been willing to discuss limited "self-rule" that would give Palestinians control over administrative affairs such as a local police force and taxes and has mixed definite borders.

After meeting with Mr. Peres, the senior U.S. State Department delegation discussed Jerusalem and territorial delineations in a meeting with the Palestinian negotiators at the U.S. consulate in East Jerusalem.

"It was a long and serious meeting," delegation leader and peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross said afterwards. "We will continue it."

The other Americans, National

Security Adviser Martin Indyk and Aaron Miller, a senior State Department official, would not answer reporters' questions.

Mr. Ross met Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday.

Mr. Peres also urged that Israel accelerate the transfer of power in the occupied territories to the Palestinians, starting with the Gaza Strip, foreign ministry sources said.

According to the sources Mr. Peres told Mr. Ross: "It would be better to make a concrete move rather than negotiate the wording of a document, which means discussing how to carry on the discussions."

The minister, whose views are not always the same as those of Mr. Rabin, said Palestinians should take over from the Israeli military in the fields of health, education and social affairs in the territories.

He also outlined his favourite scheme of "Gaza first" in which the Palestinians would be given power in the occupied strip before the West Bank.

The Jerusalem issue is the biggest stumbling block between the Israelis and the Palestinians in the 1½ year U.S.-backed peace talks.

The Palestinians rejected an earlier American draft agreement on principles because it did not mention Jerusalem at all. The newer draft proposes that the city might be discussed after an interim Palestinian autonomy period.

But Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said a specific commitment to discuss Jerusalem is needed.

"Jerusalem is not included in the interim phase, except for

(Continued on page 2)

G-7 summit 'success' offers no quick fixes

TOKYO (Agencies) — Leading industrial countries pledged a united attack on slow growth and unemployment Friday but failed to spell out specific targets or bridge their main differences.

The summit leaders also conferred with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who thanked them for agreeing on a \$3 billion fund to assist the privatisation of Russian state-run enterprises but said they should also drop discriminatory trade laws against his country.

The final communique urged the world's three dominant economies — the United States, Japan and Germany — to stick with their separate strategies against sluggish growth.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said the summit, the first he has attended, was "extremely successful."

The U.S. delegation said it had won a victory on three points it had put forth as part of Clinton's economic policy:

— Developing a strategy for world economic growth to fight against unemployment.

— Reaching a preliminary agreement on reducing tariffs under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

— Committing aid to Russia's reforms, something Mr. Clinton has played a determining role in since March.

This proves, according to the U.S. delegation, that the results of the 19th G-7 summit are an endorsement of Mr. Clinton's leadership, which has been under fire at home almost since he took office.

"I was glad for the statement here endorsing the economic policy that I have taken in the United States," Mr. Clinton told

reporters just before the presentation of the summit text.

"We have a long way to go to restore growth to the world economy, but we made a serious start," Mr. Clinton said. He cited the Russian aid package and a breakthrough in trade talks as the major accomplishments.

At news conferences, the leaders and their aides portrayed the joint communique as a sober, rhetoric-free prescription for recovery that refrained from raising false hopes.

"Some countries suggested a brighter tone," a Japanese official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "But we decided we should be straightforward rather than paint things over."

French President Francois Mitterrand claimed credit for the communique's statement that "nothing is agreed unless everything is agreed" — meaning that critical decisions on lowering farm subsidies cannot be taken without France's approval.

"I insisted on this," he told a news conference.

On the sidelines of the summit, talks failed to produce any clear Japanese commitment to action to cut its trade surplus.

But Mr. Clinton said the United States and Japan were reaching a "common understanding" that current trade imbalances cannot be sustained.

"We still insist on a greater Japanese contribution to economic growth... it could do a lot more," said European Community delegate Henning Christensen.

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa responded that Japan had already taken sweeping action

(Continued on page 2)

Washington has promised to look into Jordan's complaints on shipping

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Washington has promised to follow up on Jordan's complaints that overzealous enforcement of the international sanctions against Iraq was hurting the Kingdom's economy, a senior official said Friday.

Jordan raised the issue during the visit of His Majesty King Hussein to the U.S. last month and appealed for relaxed inspection of ships bound for Aqaba, and American officials promised that "they will look into it," said Jawad Al Anani, minister of state for Prime Ministry Affairs.

Jordan registered its concern that the strict enforcement of the sanctions was hurting its own economy since cargo bound for the Jordanian market was also subject to the inspections, carried out in the Red Sea at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba by American-led warships, Dr. Anani told the Jordan Times.

Shipping agents and importers complain that the guidelines for shipping such as documentation and cargo stowage and accessibility for inspection cause delays and make Jordanian imports more expensive.

As a result of the strict enforcement of the guidelines,

the flow of Iraqi goods permitted under the international sanctions has also trickled, further inflicting losses to the port and transport sector.

The standard American reply to repeated Jordanian complaints over the issue was that as long as shippers and shipping agents as well as vessels abide by the guidelines there is little chance of Jordan-bound cargo being refused to the Gulf of Aqaba.

But shipping agents say that in many cases ships fall victim to the whims of officers aboard the enforcement vessels even after meeting every guideline set by the inspectors.

In general terms, Washington now acknowledges that Jordan, which was once accused of sanction-busting, is enforcing the sanctions, a conviction reaffirmed by State Department spokesman John Snyder Thursday.

"There have been problems in the past, but we think Jordan moved to correct problems that we have seen in the past and that yes, Jordan is basically complying with the U.N. resolutions" which imposed the sanctions against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Mr. Snyder told reporters Thursday.

The spokesman said he was not aware of a report carried by Reuters from Amman that Washington had rejected a Jordanian request to relax the American-led inspection of Aqaba-bound vessels by warships patrolling the Red Sea.

"All what we got from the U.S. to our request was flat no," the news agency quoted an unidentified official as saying. "Among the reasons they cited as that such a move will give a wrong signal to Iraq."

Dr. Anani indirectly confirmed that Washington was demanding stricter Jordanian controls on goods entering Iraq and more information on trade with Iraq as well as details of companies dealing with Iraq.

"They (the U.S.) always want us to do more despite our strict enforcement of the sanctions as acknowledged by senior administration officials," the minister said when asked whether the U.S. had made these demands on Jordan.

In addition to demanding these details from Jordan, American officials also complained of "increased corruption both sides" of the Jordanian-Iraqi border and weakening border controls, Reuters reported.

Jordan told the U.S. that the sanctions enforcement was also hurting the Kingdom's vital export of its phosphates and potash and other goods since freight surcharges imposed by shipping companies as a result of the delays caused by the inspection in the Red Sea, Dr. Anani said.

"It is as if we are being penalised," he said, echoing a long-held Jordanian view. "Or are we under sanctions ourselves?"



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Friday wave as they leave for Britain (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

King and Queen leave on private visit to Britain

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein left for a private visit to London Friday, a day after he was discharged from hospital after being treated for an irregular heart beat.

King Hussein flew himself on the convalescence trip.

Her Majesty Queen Noor sat in the co-pilot seat next to the King as he lifted the TriStar into the sky.

Wearing a gray suit, King Hussein, 57, looked healthy and relaxed.

The King, who underwent surgery in the United States, was taken to hospital on Wednesday.

His doctors said he suffered "atrial fibrillation" — rapid uncoordinated series of contractions of some portion of the heart muscle which causes irregular heartbeat and some ineffectual pumping of blood.

He was discharged the next day, but doctors said his ailment was caused by fatigue and exhaustion and that he needed to rest.

King Hussein has twice before been hospitalised with the same problem, which sent former U.S. President George Bush to hospital, in May 1991.

One official told Reuters the Monarch might undergo an operation for a perforated right eardrum while convalescing in

London.

"It is up to him to decide if he wants to have the operation now, or later. It depends on his mood and how he feels."

The King, the longest-serving Arab ruler, has often complained of fatigue since doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, removed his ureter and kidney in August 1992 to take out cancer cells.

They gave him a clean bill of health after a checkup two weeks ago and told him to return for more tests by December.

The director of the Royal Medical Services and cardiologist Youssef Qusous, who supervised the King's treatment at the Queen Alia Heart Institute, said Thursday King Hussein's condition resulted from exhaustion, fatigue and worry.

The King's heart is now functioning normally and he does not suffer from any heart diseases. Dr. Qusous said in a statement following the King's departure from hospital.

Noting that King Hussein stayed in hospital for 24 hours, Dr. Qusous said that King Hussein can now exercise his daily activities normally without taking any medicine.

Accompanied by Her Queen Noor, the King visited Jordanian and Bosnian patients undergoing

treatment at the institute and the Al Hussein Medical Centre and wished them all speedy recovery.

A spokesman for the Bosnian patients expressed deep appreciation to the King for providing them with care in Jordan.

King Hussein and Queen Noor later visited Bosnian families at Jofah.

In a brief address at a meeting with the Bosnian families, the King stressed that Jordan would always extend a helping hand to all brothers in time of need.

Noting that right will triumph in the end, the King said, the Bosnian families should feel at home and that every possible assistance would be provided to them until they can be repatriated.

He said he was concerned over the condition of the Bosnian families and that he would like to be personally notified on anything related to their well-being.

A spokesman for the Bosnian families expressed their deep gratitude and appreciation of the King's care and support.

Also Thursday, King Hussein visited the Army Headquarters and had a meeting with the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Mirai and senior staff. Chief of Royal Court Khaled Al Karaki was present at the meeting.



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Coca-Cola International Company Accredits Jerusalem/Intermarkets Advertising As its Agent in Jordan

Jerusalem/Intermarkets Advertising recently signed an agreement with the Coca-Cola International Company accrediting it as the advertising agent for the soft drinks giant in Jordan.

After more than a century since its inception, the Coca-Cola Company operates in over 195 countries, serving more than 685 million drinks a day all over the globe.

The acquisition of this major account is considered a milestone in the working history of Jerusalem/Intermarkets, acclaimed as the largest and most established advertising agency in Jordan.

The agency's credentials boast such accounts as five-star hotels, airlines, national and international industries and companies.

Djerejian lauds 'positive' tone of Mideast multilaterals

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The multilateral dimension of the Middle East process is working well and making substantial progress on the issues, according to Edward P. Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs.

Mr. Djerejian co-chaired the Middle East Peace Process Multilateral Steering Group meeting in Moscow on July 7, 1993 with his Russian counterpart, Ambassador Victor Pasulvaluk, director of the African and Middle East Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In a written statement, Mr. Djerejian outlined some of the activities undertaken by the various working groups as well as by the steering group.

Among other signs of progress, Mr. Djerejian said the decision of groups to hold future meetings in the region is "an important step towards promoting greater regional cooperation." The venues for the next sessions of the working groups include Egypt and Tunisia.

Following is the text of the statement released by Ambassador Djerejian at the close of the steering group meeting:

I'm pleased to report that the third meeting of the steering group on multilateral negotiations of the Middle East peace process has concluded on a very positive note. I want to express my deep appreciation to our Russian friends and cosponsors for

hosting this session, and to all the parties for their serious work in making this meeting a success.

The multilateral dimension of the Arab-Israeli peace process is working well. As we have noted many times before, the multilateral track is designed to facilitate and complement the bilateral negotiations. To that end, all parties expressed the hope that the bilateral negotiations, which are in a short recess in Washington, will make significant progress this year.

Since our last meeting of the steering group in London in December, we have had substantial progress on the issues.

Some highlights are:

— Israel and diaspora Palestinians now participate in all five working groups. The U.N. is now a participant in all the groups as well.

— On substance, the working groups have focused on practical ways to achieve real progress. In this regard, working groups are implementing rigorous agendas of intersectoral events and activities.

Working groups are also planning to hold future meetings and discussions in the region. We believe this is an important step towards promoting greater regional cooperation.

— In this regard, as the working groups move forward, we hope that Syria and Lebanon will

soon participate. The cosponsors will continue their efforts towards this end. As part of its aim of stimulating regional economic development, the steering group recognized the particular needs of the Palestinians as they move toward interim self-government arrangements. The steering group hopes that additional funds will be made available to the Palestinians to meet their current pressing needs and responsibilities and those that might be assumed even prior to agreements reached between Israel and the Palestinians on interim self-governing arrangements.

Let me give you a sense of some of the activities underway:

— The economic development working group is engaged in a wide range of activities including infrastructure, training and tourism development. Based on the World Bank's economic analysis, the group is beginning to identify priority infrastructure projects for the region and the occupied territories. Feasibility studies from these projects could begin in the near term.

— The water resources working group has 12 activities underway. These include workshops, seminars, and on-the-ground studies on topics such as water conservation and demand management, water sector training needs, brackish water desalination, and enhancing water data

availability.

The refugee working group is concentrating on several themes: data bases, family reunification, human resource development (including training and job creation), public health and child welfare, and social and economic infrastructure. A French emissary is continuing his work on the sensitive issue of family reunification.

— The arms control and regional security working group has developed an ambitious list of 12 events and activities including military base visits, workshops, and research projects to be completed before its next meeting in the fall.

— The environment working group is implementing a number of workshops, training and longer-term projects of benefit to the peoples of the region. It is helping to build capabilities to deal with maritime pollution, wastewater treatment alternatives, environmental management and desertification.

One of the purposes of the multilateral negotiations is to demonstrate that peace will bring to the region concrete benefits that will promote the well-being of all the peoples of the region. At the same time, all parties recognize that only at the bilateral negotiations and through the resolution of the political issues that divide them, can real peace be achieved.

Just a few days ago, Secretary Christopher emphasized that the parties "have to do their part. There is only so much that we can do as the honest broker. They have to want peace as well."

Our discussions also focused on a number of procedural issues related to the work of the multilateral negotiations. In some areas, consensus was achieved; in others, it was not. The important point is that all parties are determined to make the process succeed and to find the most effective format to make it work.

In this regard, I am pleased to announce venues for the next sessions of the working groups: Refugees: Tunis Oct. 12-14 Water: Beijing Oct. 26-28 ACSRS: Moscow Nov. 2-4 Economic Development: Copenhagen Nov. 8-9 Environment: Egypt Nov. 15-16.

The next steering group meeting will be in Tokyo in December or January.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that this session demonstrated a serious and positive tone and a willingness on the part of all the participants to work through difficult issues in a friendly and constructive manner. I am certain that with the resolve and good will shown by all the parties, we will be able to achieve the peace and security that the peoples of this region so deeply need.

Turkish army chief threatens martial law

ANKARA (Agencies) — Martial law could be enforced in Kurdish regions of Turkey unless the rebel Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) was wiped out by spring 1994, Turkey's army chief of staff warned Friday.

In an interview with the daily Hurriyet, General Dogan Gures recalled that a state of emergency already existed in Kurdish-majority eastern and south-eastern Anatolia, but that it was "not enforced to the letter."

The separatist PKK, he added, "could no longer resist large-scale (Turkish army) operations in which more than 600 people have been killed since March 21," the date of the Kurdish New Year.

Gen. Gures estimated rebel forces currently numbered 3,000 to 4,000 in Turkey, 2,000 to 3,000 in northern Iraq and about 1,000 in Iran.

Those tallies would indicate the PKK had lost up to 4,000 fighters during the last year from a military contingent estimated at 12,000/strong in 1992, analysts noted.

Gen. Gures also accused the PKK of being "crueller than the Irish Republican Army (IRA)." The outlawed IRA gave warnings when it placed bombs while the PKK "kill women and children in the name of so-called revenge," he added.

Gen. Gures rejected the possibility of a coup in Turkey as envisaged in press commentaries of the administration's inability to stamp out the PKK.

Leaders of Turkey's third coup in September 1980 had vowed to "put a stop to terrorism," press analysts noted.

Commenting on last Friday's hotel arson attack by Muslim fundamentalists in Sivas, eastern Turkey, in which 36 died, Gen. Gures stressed that Turkey would always remain a secular state and that questioning its secularism was a "constitutional crime."

Nine guerrillas killed Turkish troops killed nine rebel Kurds in a clash in southeast Turkey and arrested 15 others in several incidents, officials said Friday.

They said troops killed the PKK members near Dugulu village in Mardin province after the rebels attacked a nearby village and wounded three civilians a day ago.

Turkish security forces have arrested 15 PKK members in operations in the troubled Diyarbakir, Bingol and Mus provinces, and seized 13 rifles, 14 pistols, two rocket launchers, 25 rockets and rounds of ammunition, they said.

Israel may specify self-rule land

(Continued from page 1)

allowing Palestinians from Jerusalem the vote," she said in an interview with the Associated Press. "This is entirely unacceptable. It must be part of all arrangements."

"We had extensive and serious discussions on basic issues and felt the discussions were very useful, very serious and very comprehensive," Dr. Ashrawi told reporters outside the U.S. consulate in East Jerusalem.

"These are issues that we have raised earlier on which there were basic disagreements, particularly jurisdiction and Jerusalem," he said.

A six-member delegation led by Saeb Erakat met the U.S. team.

Mr. Ross said only that the talks had been "serious and intensive."

The envoys found the Palestinians unwilling to discuss an American document aimed at paving the way towards autonomy in the occupied territories.

The two leading Palestinians in the territories snubbed Mr. Ross.

Senior negotiator Faisal Hussein failed to return from Moscow in time and Palestinian peace delegation head Haidar Abdul Shafi stayed at home in Gaza City.

But Dr. Ashrawi added: "It's too early to speak about any progress... but we haven't finished discussions yet."

The Palestinians are expected to meet Mr. Ross again on Saturday and Tuesday, Palestinian sources said, as he pursues his shuttle diplomacy through the region.

The mere mention of Jerusalem was too much for the Israelis.

"Jerusalem is beyond politics," Mr. Peres said. "Anyone wants to negotiate with us must understand points that are holy and points that are practical."

Media reports said that Mr. Ross would break a three-year ban on official contacts with the PLO during a day-visit in Cairo Saturday. The PLO confirmed that Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, would be in the city the same day, but neither side would say if a meeting was scheduled.

G-7 summit offers no quick fixes

(Continued from page 1)

tion to stimulate home demand with a 13-trillion yen (\$120 billion) spending package.

But if that doesn't help, "we will have to consider something additional," he said.

British Prime Minister John Major said relations with Japan "are in very good shape" and would be boosted by Japan's agreement to lower tariffs on imports of Scotch whisky.

The leaders sat in gilded armchairs at a small and intimate round table in the Hall of Birds and Flowers of the Akasaka Palace, listening through translation earphones as Mr. Miyazawa, read aloud in Japanese from the communiqué.

They ended the final session with smiles, handshakes and chitchat.

After meeting the seven leaders, Mr. Yeltsin voiced disappointment that they did not do more to lift trade discrimination against Russia.

"Progress here is less than on the political side," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Mr. Yeltsin said the United States should lift its cold war trade restrictions within two years rather than gradually, as the U.S.

has proposed.

Although not a member of the club of industrial powers, Russia has attended three summits, and Mr. Yeltsin clearly felt sufficient home to level public criticism at the group for the first time.

The leaders went into this 19th annual summit looking politically weak and economically troubled, and their conclusions amounted to an acknowledgement of their limited leeway for radical change.

This realism was reflected in Thursday's political communiqué, which backed down from last year's threat of military intervention in Bosnia, and in Friday's draft economic communiqué, which promised no dramatic results.

"You cannot expect these summits to resolve the world's problems," said Italian Prime Minister Carlo Ciampi. "It's important, also for the future, that we don't have too high expectations."

The final document represented a compromise between a U.S. push for firm commitments from Japan and Germany to do more to stimulate their economies, and those countries' fear of triggering inflation.

The communiqué called the jobs rate "unacceptable," and added that it was a result not just

of recession but of a need for structural change "especially (in) labour markets."

This seemed to reflect a finance ministers' report to the summit calling for trimming down welfare and workers' rights to make hirings easier.

The communiqué endorsed a Clinton proposal to hold a "jobs summit" in the United States this fall to forge a joint offensive against unemployment.

The communiqué contained a vague Japanese promise to work towards significantly cutting its huge trade surpluses.

The European countries pledged policies that allow interest rates to fall, the United States has pressed Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse, to cut interest rates and lead the rest of the continent out of recession.

But German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said the leaders agreed that interest-rate cuts were not enough to resuscitate the Western economies, and that deeper structural change was needed.

For the fourth year running, the summit promised to finish global free-trade talks by year's end, and officials insisted that this time they really meant it.

5 Israelis killed in Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

strike with painful, limited operations which will have a dissuasive effect and halt terrorist attacks without causing widespread escalation," said the Israeli coordinator for Lebanon, Uri Lubran.

Chief of Staff General Ehud Barak alluded to the possibility of "a greater scale of confrontation with the Hizbollah," which carries out a majority of the attacks in the buffer zone.

Undeterred by the warnings, Hizbollah said it had carried out three new raids Friday against Israeli troops and their South Lebanese Army (SLA) militia in the zone.

A spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon said Israeli forces and the guerrillas fought fierce artillery duels after the attacks. There was no immediate casualty toll.

Hizbollah gunners attacked Israeli positions with Katyusha rockets, multiple-rocket launchers and mortars. Israeli troops fired back at the Iqim Al Tuffah hills, a Hizbollah stronghold, with field artillery and tanks.

Israeli helicopters strafed ravines guerrillas used to infiltrate the zone, Lebanese police said.

Mr. Peres had vowed the PFLP-GC would pay for the deaths of the two soldiers in the south Thursday.

"Jibril is not a new face..." Mr. Peres told Israeli Radio. "We have clashed with him a number of times already. He has paid the price for his terrorist actions and he will pay this time as well."

Thursday's PFLP-GC attack began when a bomb detonated by remote control hit a Merkava tank. Guerrillas fought with survivors with rockets and machineguns. Israeli troops later killed a PFLP-GC guerrilla hiding nearby.

"This is the only way to deal with the enemy," Jibril told reporters in Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp near the southern Lebanese port of Sidon shortly before the raid on Naameh.

Jibril visited fighters at the camp on Friday and Thursday. He said a total of six Israeli soldiers died in the attack on Thursday, including one killed and a group of two metres — and congratulated the leader of the guerrillas.

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Israeli who spied on neo-Nazis tells all to German agents

BONN (AP) — Yaron Svoray gained the trust of some of Germany's most notorious neo-Nazis during a seven-month undercover mission. On Thursday, the Israeli journalist eagerly betrayed them.

Mr. Svoray briefed German security agents on what he uncovered while gathering information about neo-Nazis for the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Centre.

Reporters were not invited to Thursday's talks at the interior ministry, which was attended by ministry officials, leaders of the Wiesenthal centre and agents from Germany's main fascist-hunting agency, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution.

Mr. Svoray later said he believes German authorities will make arrests based on his intelligence-gathering. Mr. Svoray said he gave sworn statements alleging criminal activities of one important neo-Nazi leader, whom he refused to identify.

Mr. Svoray went underground with the neo-Nazis last October and reemerged on April 20, Adolf Hitler's birthday.

Mr. Svoray, whose parents escaped the Holocaust, had passed himself off as an Australian journalist working for a fictitious newspaper.

He met more than 200 extremists, listening to daily abuses against his own people.

"I heard the same garbage that my father and mother heard more than 50 years ago," Mr. Svoray told reporters, flanked by two bodyguards to protect him from neo-Nazis who have learned his true identity.

"I was angry all the time. And there were times when I was scared of being unmasked," Mr. Svoray said.

Mr. Svoray got his revenge in parking-lot fistfights with skinheads, a favoured ritual among neo-Nazis for proving their manhood.

"You haven't lived until you've beaten up a neo-Nazi," said the stevedore-sized Svoray, toughened by combat when he

was an Israeli paratrooper and by experiences as an Israeli police detective.

Mr. Svoray said he also saw skinheads attack foreign youths, and the foreigners chasing them off.

Mr. Svoray told of Friedhelm Busse, head of the Free German Worker's Party, holding secret meetings in the woods where his followers yelled "Sieg Heil" and gave the stiff-arm Nazi salute.

Mr. Svoray showed pictures of apartments decorated with photographs of Hitler, swastikas, daggers and guns. In one house, a neo-Nazi had painted the star of David onto his toilet bowl.

Mr. Svoray became fast friends with Heinz Reisz, a neo-Nazi so radical that federal authorities are trying to get the courts to strip him of his right to vote.

While he was chumming around with Mr. Reisz, said Mr. Svoray, the neo-Nazi got telephone warnings that his house

was about to be raided from a sympathiser within the Hesse state police.

Mr. Svoray also met Heinrich Himmler's daughter, Hitler's butler and former Nazi SS soldiers who still idolize Hitler, as well as doctors, lawyers and other respectable Germans with fascist views.

The Wiesenthal Centre wants the German government to use evidence dug up by Mr. Svoray to ban the republicans, an anti-foreigner party whose political clout has increased since unification.

The republicans, led by former Nazi SS soldier Franz Schoenhuber, contend they have no connections with hardcore neo-Nazis.

But Mr. Svoray said he met about 35 republicans — at least one of them a party leader — who maintain secret contacts with neo-Nazis and have the same views.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hassan hopes for reconciliation with Polisario

RABAT (R) — King Hassan hopes the first meeting between Polisario guerrilla leaders and local chief in Western Sahara next week lead to reconciliation after 17 years of conflict. "I want it to be a meeting of tolerance and reconciliation so that we may together build a country that enjoys...unity, calm and intellectual serenity," the king said in a broadcast marking his 64th birthday Friday. For the first time since the conflict began in the former Spanish colony in 1976, guerrilla leaders who want independence are due to meet next Thursday inside the territory with tribal chiefs from the area controlled by Morocco. Morocco claims the disputed territory is an integral part of the kingdom. "We expect the meeting will be one between men inspired by the virtues of the Muslim faith...and (its) eternal and universal meanings of patriotism, fraternity, the unity of ranks and solidarity between believers," the king said. The meeting in Laayoun, the main town in the desert area rich in phosphates, is being held under the aegis of the United Nations. A U.N. peace plan has been stalled for nearly two years by a dispute over who can vote in a referendum. Moroccan officials have said there is no fixed agenda for the meeting. But U.N. sources said it is designed primarily to break a deadlock over voting lists to allow to referendum to go ahead. The Polisario wants voters limited to about 74,000 people counted in a Spanish census in 1974. Morocco wants to add about 100,000 more who it says are refugees who fled the area during the colonial era. U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has indicated that if agreement is not reached, he will ask the Security Council to have the referendum held regardless, hopefully by the end of this year.

29 to go on trial in Sudan for plotting

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Twenty-nine people — including two generals — are to be tried next week for plotting to overthrow the military government, an official daily newspaper has said. The trial was announced Thursday, quoting chief of state Abdel Rahman Ahmad Ibrahim, that a former prosecutor Abdul Rahman Ahmad Ibrahim, that a former commander-in-chief of the armed forces, General Fathi Ahmad Rahman Saeed, top the list of soldiers and civilians indicted for planning various acts of sabotage and assassination in a coup plot. The charge sheet alleges that the Egyptian embassy collaborated with the plotters, the paper said. Many of the alleged plotters were arrested in the past three months. But some are in exile and will be tried in absentia, said the newspaper. Those in exile are reportedly members of the Sudanese opposition national alliance, which is based in Cairo. The chief prosecutor said the trial would be held in public. The regime of General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, who seized power in 1989, has come under increasing internal pressure owing to its economic policies, its support of fundamentalist Islamic values, and its failure to resolve the civil war in southern Sudan.

Turkey sacks local officials over rampage

ANKARA (AP) — Under fire for failing to prevent a Muslim fundamentalist rampage that left 36 people dead, the government has sacked a provincial governor and a police chief. Interior Minister Mehmet Gazioglu, the target of opposition media attacks, announced the dismissal of Sivas province Governor Ahmet Karabaglan and the police chief of the city of Sivas. He also announced the "provisional" suspension of the city's fundamentalist mayor, Temel Karamollaoglu, and one of his deputies until the conclusion of investigations into the incident. The mayor was elected; governors are appointed by the national government. Last week, several thousand Muslims emerged from mosques after Friday prayers and some torched a hotel hosting Aziz Nessim, a left-wing newspaper editor who had published portions of Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses." Mr. Gazioglu had blamed Mr. Nessim for the rampage in the central Turkish city, saying he had made provocative remarks. Mr. Nessim had earlier questioned belief in the Holy Koran. Thirty-six people, mostly intellectuals and writers who arrived with Mr. Nessim for the commemoration of a 16th century poet, perished in the fire and 60 were injured. Mr. Nessim survived. The government imposed a curfew and detained 140 suspects after the rampage. Mr. Nessim and spokesmen for the opposition parties later criticised the government for not sending troops in time to disperse the attackers. The incident threatened to undermine the recently installed centrist coalition government of Premier Tansu Ciller. The Social Democrats, her junior coalition partners, demanded Mr. Gazioglu's resignation. News reports, quoting unnamed police officials, said investigators believe local branches of underground fundamentalist movement had planned the attack.

Couple missing in Turkey believed abducted

CANBERRA (AFP) — Australian embassy officials are almost certain that a couple missing in Turkey, Australian nurse Tania Miller and her British cousin David Rowbotham, have been abducted, officials said here Friday. A search involving 600 Turkish police and security forces and several helicopters has reportedly been under way since Ms. Miller and Rowbotham, both 28, were last seen at Van, eastern Turkey, on July 4. They were seen leaving a campsite at 6:00 a.m. to go on a short cycling trip after telling others they expected to be back by midday. British officials who visited the search area had reported the Turks were "leaving no stone unturned" and the search has thorough and impressive, a foreign affairs department spokesman said. "There is a very strong feeling it was an abduction, that's the embassy's view based on what they've been told by the Turks," the spokesman said. Two officials from the Australian embassy in Ankara, immigration officer Andrew Harper and locally employed consular officer Bolkan Gulal, were on their way to Van to take over monitoring the search from the British officials. The two countries are cooperating because Ms. Miller has dual citizenship. The spokesman said embassy officials Thursday expressed their concern about the disappearance to the Turkish Foreign Ministry, and were told Turkey would do everything possible to help find the missing pair. The search is concentrating on the Mount Nemrut area near the town of Tatan in southern Turkey — near where an Australian archaeologist was abducted last year and released a fortnight later. Ms. Miller's mother Doreen said Thursday her daughter left Australia three years ago to work as a nurse in Iran and Saudi Arabia and was now on a two-year cycling trip around the world. She expected to return to Australia in about a year.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Les Aventures de l'Espace
18:30	Envoye Special
19:00	News in French
19:15	News in Hebrew
19:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Super Bloopers
22:00	News in English
22:20	Feature Film: "Shoot to Kill"
PRAYER TIMES	
03:59	Fajr
05:32	(Sunrise) Duha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:21	Asr
19:49	Maghreb
21:22	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terresanta Church Tel. 622266	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 638526	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 625236	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 65932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
Normal summer weather will prevail during the day, and a gradual drop in temperatures will take place in the evening. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to fresh and seas calm.	
Amman Min./Max. temp. 20 / 33	
Aqaba 26 / 39	
Deserts 19 / 37	



Prince Hassan, Princess Sarvath return home

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath returned home Thursday following a short working visit to the United Kingdom during which Prince Hassan met with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

The Crown Prince also visited the Royal Agricultural Fair in Coventry City, Yorkshire, and toured its various sections. The Crown Prince commended the Jordanian pavilion at the fair and expressed hope that the Kingdom's participation in the fair

would pave the way for holding a permanent Jordanian agricultural fair similar to the British one.

Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath were received at the Amman airport by His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohamed, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ben Zeid, the King's Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef, several senior officials and the British Charge D'affaires in Amman.

Buying spree of commercial banks' shares leads to record trading volume at AFM

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prospects of Jordanian commercial banks reopening branches in the occupied territories and high expectations of half-yearly results shot up the prices of commercial bank shares in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) last week, leading to a record daily trading volume of JD 17.6 million on Wednesday, economists and brokers said Friday.

"There was a marked focus on commercial banks, particularly those seen as planning to reopen branches in the West Bank during last week's trading," said a broker.

At least two Jordanian banks — the Bank of Jordan and the Arab Land Bank — are known to be preparing to reopen their branches in the West Bank although official permission to do so depends on concrete progress in the 20-month-old Middle East peace process.

Other banks, if they are

planning to reopen in the West Bank, are not talking about it in public. But investors believe several other banks are quietly preparing their plans, said the broker, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity in line with a tacit agreement with the AFM management.

Figures released by the AFM showed that last week's focus on commercial banks came at the expense of the industrial sector, with the exception of a few large companies, the share prices of most industries remained static, with limited trading.

"Most of the big investors realised their profits from trading in bank shares on Wednesday," said the broker. "I expect attention to shift back to industries this week."

In general, stock prices of commercial banks went up by 15 to 20 per cent during the week before falling by around two per cent on the final day of the week's trading, the broker added.

Another reason for the focus

on commercial banks' shares was expectations that half-yearly results of the banks expected this month would be excellent and could drive up the prices of their shares in the market.

Dr. Abdullah Malki, general manager of the Association of Banks in Jordan, said all commercial banks "have been doing very well in the last 24 months."

"It is not a new development, and banking circles and most investors are well aware of it," Dr. Malki said. "The banks have to prepare a half-yearly performance report, but such reports do not get much publicity."

"Obviously investors are taking advantage of the anticipation," Dr. Malki told the Jordan Times.

Hani Kakish, deputy general manager of Amman Bank of Investments, supported this argument.

"Indications that banking results have performed very well in the last six months as well as some industrial companies,

especially pharmaceuticals, are fuelling a buying spree that has pushed up prices and trading value," Mr. Kakish was quoted as saying by Reuters.

The record daily trading of JD 17.639 million registered on Wednesday compared with JD 11.268 million on the previous Wednesday, June 30, and with the previous record of 16.3 million on June 9.

The volume of trading was JD 46.1 million for the week ending Wednesday, compared with 41.9 million the previous week.

The volume of trading at AFM in the first half of this year was JD 582 million, compared with 402 million for the corresponding period of last year.

The monthly volume also posted a record in June, with shares worth JD 174.7 million changing hands compared with the previous record of JD 128.1 million registered in November 1992.

High liquidity — mostly resulting from the savings brought in by expatriates who

have returned home from Kuwait after the Gulf crisis — and low interest rates in commercial banks are seen as the key factors in the boom at the AFM.

Prospects for Arab-Israeli peace sparked by the Middle East negotiations which started in October 1991 have attracted many new investors to the market with an average individual seed capital of JD 100,000, brokers say.

The unprecedented rise in trading at the AFM prompted the Central Bank last month to reinforce a ceiling on commercial bank credits for dealing in stocks. But banking officials cite the unperturbed boom in the stock market and say commercial bank credits do not constitute any significant share of the money in circulation at the AFM.

The dramatic rise in share prices has also raised concern that the value of stocks did not have proper base and the market could witness a plunge.

But regulatory actions and mandatory funds to support trading are seen as a key safeguard.

Furthermore, a new "evaluation mechanism" — involving the total capital, yearly earnings and stock prices of all the 109 companies listed at the AFM — has established what market officials describe as a strong base to allay fears of an inflated stock market.

However, many officials and economists believe that the authorities should keep a close watch on the market although government intervention with any regulatory measures would go against the concept of a free market economy.

"The situation in the market is stable and is guided by demand and supply principles," conceded an official who believes that the market is inflated. "However, we have to be alert. If actions have to be taken, then they will have to be taken since public interests are involved."

Deputies present grim picture at House

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Members of the Lower House of Parliament Thursday described the House's four-year performance as unsatisfactory, attributing what some deputies called its "failure to rise up to the expectations" to the House's reconciliatory attitude towards the government.

Five deputies out of six contended in a seminar held at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation that the House failed to perform its role due to lack of democratic practices in the country, with some claiming that the House itself is undemocratic in structure and government-oriented in policy.

"Our status now is characterised by fear of the government," said Islamist deputy Leith Sheilat. "One can assess the House's accomplishments at present in comparison with slogans raised (four years ago)... Where are we now from the slogan 'no for peace and submission'?"

Peace talks are continuing and agreements are already prepared," Mr. Sheilat said. "And I think the next House will also approve them," he said.

Deputy Bassam Haddadin said that it was the House's fault in the first place to give the vote of confidence to pro-peace talks governments. He said that the

House's direction towards serving the government's interests originated in the fact that "it is essentially based on an undemocratic law that does not reflect the society's interests, aspirations and formation, but expresses the social and political interests of the government."

At the economic level, Mr. Haddadin said that the legislature has given its blessings to the country's financial policies although they are in line with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) policies.

"The House approved these policies, disregarding the serious economic implications on society, such as unemployment," Mr. Haddadin said.

Two other deputies, Husni Shiyab and Taher Masri, attributed the House's "failure to perform its role properly" to the manner in which it is functioning and to the lack of communication among deputies themselves.

Mr. Masri, the former prime minister, said that each draft law, for example, was handed to a specialised committee for study and then referred to the House. The draft law is however studied and discussed again by deputies.

"The time is wasted for nothing, and the draft law is discussed once again in detail as if it were not studied by the specialised committee," said Mr. Masri.

Deputy Shiyab attributed

what he called the House's inappropriate functioning to the absence of unified stands by parliamentary blocs or groups.

"Different opinions come out sometimes from the same bloc," Mr. Shiyab said. "Inside the House, there is a noticeable lack of communication and dialogue."

According to Mr. Haddadin's classification, the House consists of three blocs: Conservative, Islamic and democrats. The two latter blocs, according to Mr. Haddadin, are not harmonious in stand and policy.

"In each issue raised in the House, the conservative bloc succeeded in attracting one of the two blocs to its side," he said. Mr. Haddadin's analysis sparked an angry response from Islamic Deputy Abdul Hafith Allawi who strongly defended the Islamic bloc, and indirectly accused other parties and groups in the country of weakness.

"I refuse to accept the (accusation) of some that the Islamic bloc is not unified," he said. "Those who have houses of glass do not throw stones on people," he added.

Mr. Haddadin also criticised the parliament's "inefficient role in monitoring the performance of the executive authority" and pointed out that most of the complaints filed against the executive authority are often related to procedural issues.

Majali urges measures to boost investment

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali has urged the Ministry of Industry and Trade to provide more facilities to encourage private sector investment in the country.

"Routine and formalities should be reduced to a minimum and speedy decisions on matters related to investment must be taken promptly to help investors start their projects," said the prime minister during a visit he made Thursday to the Ministry of Industry and Trade where he attended the weekly meeting by heads of departments presided over by Industry and Trade Minister Bassam Al Saket.

Voicing support for the recent measures undertaken by the Ministry of Industry to promote investments, Dr. Majali said a data base is required to cater to the needs of the trade and industrial sectors and the decision makers.

At the outset of the meeting, Dr. Saket outlined plans aimed at supporting trade and industry and backing Jordanian exporters. He said that the ministry was maintaining control of the quality of manufactured products and taking measures to help firms encountering difficulties.



Queen Noor chairs meeting on Jerash festival

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday said this year's Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts, which will open on July 14, is held in a historic moment in which Jordanians and other Arabs are trying to affirm their distinct national identities.

In a meeting of the higher national committee for the festival, Queen Noor, who heads the committee, said Jerash festival might be considered the most important artistic and cultural contribution Jordan presents to this process of political pluralism, free expansion and creativity.

Speaking at the meeting, which was held to discuss the final arrangements for the festival, was also festival Director General Akram Masarweh, who said the festival stresses quality rather

than quantity.

"The level of the works presented is the only criteria which defines our choice (of works) for this year," he said.

Mr. Masarweh said the festival administration will this year start a new tradition, making the opening day fully Jordanian, including only distinguished local events.

Out of its faith in the cultural role of the festival, he said, the festival administration has prepared for holding meetings for critics and expanding Arab participation in the event.

The activities of this year's festival, the 12th since it was launched in 1981, include songs, music, theatrical shows, performances for children and recitals of literary works.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Abdullah visits Prime Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein Thursday visited the Prime Ministry where he had a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali. The meeting dealt with several issues.

Jerusalem committee holds meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs discussed in a meeting held Thursday under the chairmanship of its president Akram Zu'aitir, the situation in occupied Jerusalem and Israeli violations of Palestinian rights in the holy city. Commission Secretary General Fayed Jaber reviewed at the meeting Israel's attempts to appropriate Arab lands and to efface the Arab identity of the city. A lengthy discussion on the best means to support the steadfastness of Arabs in Jerusalem took place between members of the commission.

New regulations to help food importers

IRBID (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply is preparing a set of regulations, which would allow private sector merchants to import food supplies without referring to the ministry for approval. The announcement was made by Supply Minister Radi Ibrahim during a visit to Irbid on Thursday, where he received demands from the local businessmen to make their own imports of food supplies without referring to the ministry in Amman for approval. The ministry is currently revising the lists of food supplies which have fixed prices and imported by the ministry and sold in the markets for the benefits of the limited income groups, said Mr. Ibrahim. Mr. Ibrahim also said his ministry was working to make available all basic food commodities like bread, sugar, rice and milk at subsidised prices in order to help the needy families and limited income people. Supply departments directors in the governorates will be authorised to issue licences to merchants to import the food supplies for their regions without referring to the central government in Amman in a bid to cut down on routine work, said Mr. Ibrahim. But, he said, all food supplies will remain subject to close and thorough examination and testing to ensure they are fit for human consumption.

Ministry of health reforms to produce better services

By a Jordan Times
staff Reporter

AMMAN — Management of public health services in Jordan is expected to undergo major reforms aimed at achieving optimum cost efficiency under a project launched with help from the World Bank (WB) officials say.

The project, approved in March and now in its third month of implementation, involves raising the quality of primary health care and improving hospital services.

More importantly, World Bank officials say, it aims at reforming the Ministry of Health organisation and management.

According to Tejinder Minhas, the World Bank's country officer for Jordan, the project serves as a key indicator that the World Bank seeks to contribute to Jordan's economic recovery by helping improve the public services in the Kingdom.

Mr. Minhas made the comment last week in defence of the economic restructuring programme that Jordan is implementing in agreement with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) — the two international economic watchdogs often accused of ignoring the status of the poor in debtor countries while suggesting economic austerity measures.

The World Bank has extended a \$20 million soft loan for the \$30 million health services project. Jordan expects to receive an additional \$2.4 million in grants and will offer \$7.6 million from its own sources.

The low-interest World Bank loan is repayable in 20 years with a grace period of five years.

The project aims at improving primary health care service through training doctors, nurses and midwives and upgrading health services equipment at selected government hospitals.

Reorganising the central and

regional administration of health services offered by the Ministry of Health as well as decentralisation of service delivery management are key objectives of the programme.

These objectives are in line with a World Bank finding that optimum utilisation of funds, services and infrastructure could be better assured through gradual decentralisation.

According to Dr. John Hopkins, a co-author of the 1993 report of the World Bank which focused on health, stiff regulations and administration from a centralised decision-making authority tend to grow away from resources and dilute the quality of district-level health services.

As part of the project, the World Bank will help the Ministry of Health develop a fee structure and improve operations of the its health insurance fund.

According to Mr. Minhas, Jordan has already achieved most of the short- and medium-term objectives of the economic restructuring programme prescribed by the IMF.

"Jordan has achieved enormous progress in these areas, and we are now involved in drawing up long-term strategies and programmes," he said.

The final phase of the world bank-financed health project involves studies on the health status and epidemiological trends among Jordanians and the introduction of a national health insurance scheme.

"The expected project includes better-quality primary care, especially in mother and child health/family planning services, and emergency services," says the World Bank.

"Improved maintenance services will reduce equipment breakdown, while enhanced Ministry of Health management will help contain costs and enhance the responsiveness to patient needs of day-to-day grassroots service delivery."

Minister warns against using mosques to serve factional goals

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi Thursday met at the King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein Mosque with the preachers and imams of mosques in Amman governorate.

Dr. Abbadi underlined the importance of dialogue and exchanging views between the preachers so as to guide the society according to Islamic teachings.

He urged mosque preachers and imams to tackle problems of society wisely, calling on them to stress to worshippers the importance of dialogue.

"We cannot deal with any situation out of the conviction that we have few and insufficient

information on it, but rather, we should have full understanding to counter any issue," he said.

He urged preachers to have a comprehensive understanding of the issues they tackle and warned them of giving importance to side issues.

He said preaching in mosques should be based on deep understanding and sermons should be separated from excitations, ignorance and improvisation.

"We in this country, and with guidance from its wise leadership, want the mosques to perform their message wanted by Islam, which is unifying the ranks of the nation," he said, urging the preachers and imams to give this issue due attention.

Jordan, Australia to hold trade talks

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries in Western Australia, Monty House, Saturday opens talks with government officials and representatives of the business sector on means of promoting economic and trade links between Jordan and Australia.

Australian embassy sources told the Jordan Times that Mr. House, who arrived here Thursday, was preparing to open discussions with Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket on the prospects of increasing his country's imports of Jordanian phosphate and potash in exchange for live sheep and meat from Western Australia.

Jordan imports nearly half a million heads of live sheep from Western Australia annually and

sells it limited amounts of potash and phosphate, the sources said.

They said that the discussions will focus on means of adjusting the balance of trade — between the two sides, which is currently in favour of Australia.

Mr. House is also Saturday expected to meet with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and hold talks with the ministers of agriculture and planning to discuss bilateral economic cooperation.

On Sunday Mr. House, who is accompanied by a three member delegation, will hold talks with Jordanian businessmen, particularly those importing live sheep from his country before signing a memorandum of understanding with the Jordanian government. The memorandum creates opportunities for barter trade — exchanging sheep with phosphate and potash.

Local firm to study feasibility of new dam

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has taken the first step towards building the Al Tannour Dam in southern Jordan to collect some 12 million cubic metres of water. JVA Thursday entrusted a local consultancy firm with conducting feasibility study on the first stage of the project.

Dr. Abdul Fziz, JVA secretary general, said that work on preparing the study will take 18 months at the cost of JD 312,000.

When constructed, the new dam, located near Al Hassa, will provide sufficient water for irrigating up to 80,000 dunums of land, said Dr. Wishah.

He said that the dam, located near Al Hassa, will provide sufficient water for irrigating up to 80,000 dunums of land, said Dr. Wishah.

Excellent Job Opportunity

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Leading diversified company operating in Jordan and outside is seeking an executive secretary to work closely with the company's chairman and CEO.

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Step towards Jerusalem

THE DECISION to put the issue of Jerusalem at the top of the agenda of the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks or at the bottom is a serious and formidable point that is clearly fraught with dangers and implications. The central point in this context is to have the results of the negotiations on all other dimensions of the Palestinian question hinge on the fair and equitable determination of the future of the city. Therefore, as long as the signing of any given peace treaty to be concluded between Israel and the Palestinian side is made contingent on an agreement on Jerusalem, it would seem unprejudicial that the timing of the negotiations on Jerusalem be either delayed or put forward as the parties would prefer.

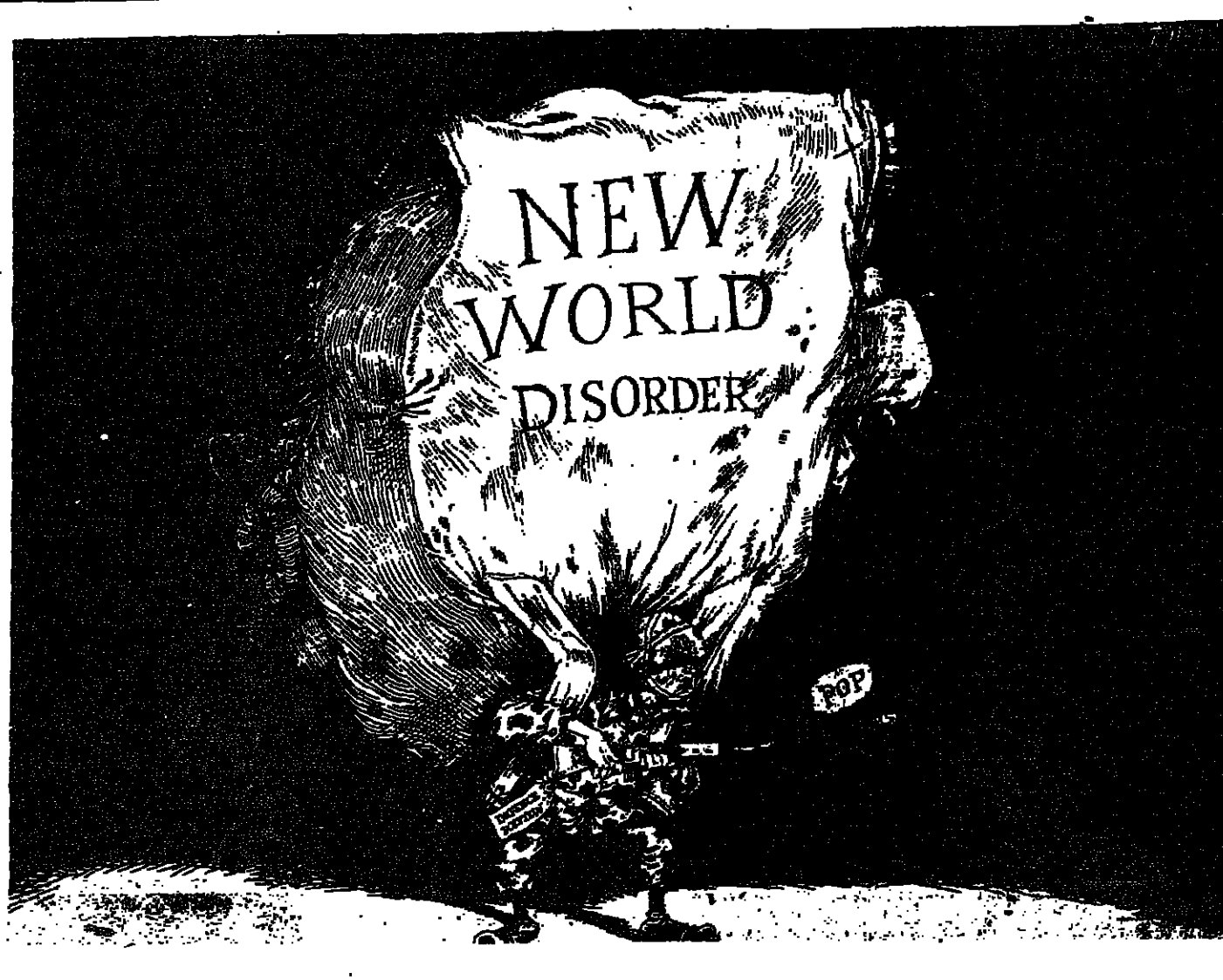
From the Palestinian point of view, however, the subject of Jerusalem is just as emotional and politically important as it is for the Israeli side, if not more. Israel must understand the unique place that Jerusalem occupies in Arab hearts and minds and must give assurances that the fate of the city cannot be sealed for all times without Arab and Islamic consent and approval. The U.S. can do likewise by giving assurances that United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 is also applicable to the occupied part of Jerusalem since East Jerusalem was also occupied in the course of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

There is accordingly a strong case for advancing the determination of the future of Jerusalem in the context of the Washington talks. Theoretically speaking, if the negotiations between the two sides proceed well on all other aspects of the Palestinian case and then signature of the Palestinian side on the final accord is kept in abeyance till there is also an agreement on Jerusalem, then the momentum and goodwill generated by the initial agreements on the less difficult dimensions of the problem can be put to use for registering some meaningful advancement on Jerusalem as well. But this is only one way of looking at this issue. To be sure, there are also other ways of viewing the same problem. Normally the negotiating process between two adversaries take up the most substantial aspects of the conflict subject to the negotiations. The lesser sides of the conflict are normally taken up at a later stage. This has been the mechanics and tactics of peace negotiations between states throughout ancient and contemporary history. If Israel is sincere in finding an equitable and just resolution on the Jerusalem issue, to the satisfaction of all parties, then it is urged to move forward on this subject by yielding to the Arab offer to deal with Jerusalem at the start of the negotiating process rather than at the end of it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily said that the United States is more concerned about making its policy achieve success in matters related to the Middle East, so as to win popularity for the Clinton administration, than achieving peace in the region. By sending Dennis Ross to the region, Washington hopes to revive the almost dead Middle East negotiations and to break the deadlock through a bargain with the concerned parties, charged the daily. It said that the Clinton administration officials have been expressing concern over the continued deadlock and lack of progress in the peace talks, but this administration was doing little to make the talks move ahead towards a settlement. The paper said that the U.S. administration should deal more seriously with the Arab-Israeli peace talks and refuse to allow the Israelis and the Jewish lobby force it to take decisions unfavourable to the cause of the peace. The Clinton administration, said the daily, should realise that the Israelis are determined to force it to take certain decisions that can by no means help the Arabs and the Israelis reach an acceptable settlement.

JORDANIANS realise for sure that their country does not have sufficient water supplies and then take care in consuming the valuable water that reaches them irregularly, said a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily. Some residents of the Amman area do not have to heed the calls the Water Authority to take care in consuming water simply because they are not supplied with this water, said Ahmad Dabbas. The writer charged that while certain districts receive more than they need of water supplies, and on regular basis, others remain dry for most of the summer season. The daily residents' repeated appeal to the Water Authority to supply them with water in accordance with the distribution programme announced by that same authority falls on deaf ears, added the writer. He said this imbalance and this negligence stem from faulty management and it is unreasonable to say that the present technical teams are unable to solve the problem. What is required, he added, is not to find new water resources for the Amman area, but rather to adhere to the water distribution programme and be just and fair to all districts.



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Immature political parties face problems; obsolete Election Law needs change

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The Middle East question and the failed 10th round of Arab-Israeli talks dominated columns and editorials in the local Arabic press in the past week. Domestic issues focusing on elections also figured prominently in the press.

The 10th round of talks ended with a U.S. document of principles exactly like the ending of the ninth round with no real progress achieved on any of the Arab-Israeli tracks, said Ahmad Al Mislak in Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The two sides at the negotiations are in disagreement, with the Arabs demanding a full withdrawal from the occupied lands and the Israelis adamantly refusing to do so, said the writer. He said that the United States, which pledged to play the role of full partner in order to achieve progress, has failed to live up to expectations, hence the current deadlock.

A columnist in Al Ra'i said that the American document presented to the Palestinians and the Israelis clearly favours the Israeli views and aims at serving the Jewish state's interests. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the document is a serious development in the American policy since it fails to admit that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are occupied lands and does not mention the Jewish settlements as being an obstacle to the attainment of peace. Indeed, said the writer, such a document is bound to heighten tension among the Arabs and the Israelis rather than defuse the conflict.

The heads of Arab delegations to the Arab-Israeli negotiations have by now come to the conclusion that chances for a durable peace with Israel are diminishing as a result of the failure of the 10th round of talks to achieve progress, said Al Dustour daily.

The paper said that the Israelis were expected, since the very start of the negotiations, to be trying to foil the efforts of the Palestinians. 20 months had elapsed since the Madrid parity and no progress at all has been achieved towards a peaceful settlement. Furthermore, said the paper, the Americans, who had promised to give momentum to the peace process, are now going back on all their pledges.

Jerusalem is the touchstone of the peace negotiations and without a solution over the holy city no peace can be achieved, said Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour daily. The U.S. envoy Dennis Ross has been despatched to the Middle East to convince the Arab parties to pressure the Palestinians into accepting the Israeli formula which excludes the holy city from any negotia-

tions as a price for achieving an Arab-Israeli settlement, said the writer. But, he said, the Arab parties should not only take a supportive stand towards the Palestinians, they should further show solidarity and unity of stand vis-a-vis all Israeli and American pressures.

Ibrahim Al Absi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, described a recent threat by the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, to the effect that Washington might wash its hands altogether of the peace process as a psychological and political pressure exercised on the Arab parties in general and the Palestinians in particular.

"These young political parties are still feeling their way ahead and trying to consolidate their bases among the masses at a time when the pressure mounts on them in the course of preparations for the coming elections. They are not so popular and many of them lack credibility in the eyes of the public because most of them have failed to rise to the level of exercising national responsibility."

The writer said that the Palestinians had offered all that could be offered towards reaching a settlement and all they want now is a full Israeli withdrawal in exchange for a full peace with Israel. He said that Mr. Christopher's threats are not bound to force the Palestinians to give up their rights or change their position.

In light of Washington's dealings with the Arab and the Israeli sides to the peace process, one can say that the Americans are exercising a dictatorial and oppressive policy against the weaker nations, including the Arab and Islamic countries, said Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour.

The writer said that while the American planes and rockets are continually attacking Iraq for allegedly defying the United Nations, Israel is escaping any punishment despite its total defiance of the world community.

By aiming at perpetuating the peace process despite lack of progress towards peace, the Americans hope to achieve a normalisation of relations between the Arabs and the Israelis and at the same time reduce world pressure on the Israel to give up occupied Arab land and condone its atrocities against the Palestinian people, said Samih Al Masliah, a columnist in Al Dustour.

The writer said that nothing has been achieved through the peace talks over the past 20 months, yet the Americans are insisting that the Arabs and the Israelis continue their meetings, hoping that the barrier of enmity between the two sides will diminish but without any end to occupation.

Washington is trying to force the Arabs to accept Israel in their midst and normalise their cultural, political and economic relations with the Jewish state while, at the same time, accepting the continued occupation of Palestinian and other Arab countries' lands, added the writer.

Commenting on the split within the Jordanian political parties and the resignations of some of their leaders, Mona Shuqair, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that this situation is a direct result of the fact that these parties have not been founded on solid ground.

These young political parties are still feeling their way ahead and trying to consolidate their bases among the masses at a time when the pressure mounts on them in the course of preparations for the coming elections, the writer said.

It should be noted that the rift so far is based on personal differences among the leaders and not on ideological beliefs, she added.

In the writer's view, these young parties are not so popular and many of them lack credibility in the eyes of the public because most of them have failed to rise to the level of exercising national responsibility with regard to issues of concern to the majority of people in Jordan.

For Saleh Al Qallab, another columnist in Al Dustour, there is a unanimity among Jordanians that the present Election Law is obsolete and should be changed. There are loopholes in the present law, making it obsolete and not enabling it to cater to the present needs; any delay in taking a decision with regard to

the Election Law would cause more confusion among the public, said the writer.

The writer said that national unity in Jordan is based on pluralism and therefore the government should help maintain this national unity by taking prompt decisions concerning the Election Law.

Mohammad Subeithi, a columnist in Al Dustour, demanded that the government open the door for anyone to choose his own constituency to vote in the coming election. The government had demanded that only those who changed their place of living can change their constituency, but this is unreasonable in view of the social and political changes that occurred over the past four years, said the writer.

He said that people ought to be granted the right to choose their constituencies.

A guest columnist in Al Ra'i noted that the unemployment problem in Jordan is being aggravated every year by the graduation of more and more students from community colleges and universities.

Mohammad Al Qudrah said that there are no plans for absorbing these huge numbers of graduates in various economic sectors and the graduates are bound to face despair and frustration soon. The writer said that there is always demand for trades and the students should rather be directed towards vocational training, which would help them earn a decent living.

Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, tackled the question of poverty in Jordan, noting that the government ought to lift the subsidy on various commodities and instead give monthly salaries to those in abject poverty.

Dr. Fanek cited a study by the Social Development Ministry, which said that more than 20 per cent of the population in Jordan is living below the poverty line, and said that many months have elapsed since the preparation of the study on poverty and since then the government has increased the salaries of the civil servants and pensioners, which means that the poverty level has declined.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, said that Amman Municipality has a responsibility towards the children of the Amman area by creating places for their recreation. In the summer holiday children crowd along the pavements and in alleys and streets trying to find a place to play and spend the time. He said that the municipality should create public places for children's recreation and so save the children from danger.

Israel

Rabin's growing list of woes

By Haim Baram

WEST JERUSALEM — The most striking phenomenon of the recent month in Israel has been the relative decline of the "greater Israel" cause. True enough, the settlers and their supporters took to the streets, disrupted the Jerusalem traffic and reiterated that Prime Minister Rabin had "no mandate" to negotiate the fate of the occupied territories, let alone surrender some of them to the Arabs. These demonstrations, which lasted five days (June 13-17), attracted some media attention and provoked heated debate in the Knesset and in several newspapers, but that was it.

The attendance was poor, a few thousand zealots, mostly schoolchildren, the passion surprisingly lukewarm; the general public failed to respond. Most oriental Jews in Israel see the settlers as too lavishly pampered and too handsomely remunerated by the Ashkenazi establishment. It does not mean that a majority of them support withdrawal from most of the occupied territories, and most oppose even the minimal demands of the Palestinians (on Jerusalem, for instance), but spilling blood and wasting money for a religiously motivated settlement is a different thing altogether.

These reassuring developments should not serve as an excuse for complacency, which could prove a costly illusion. The settlers are powerful and wealthy; they are massively armed and have friends in many political quarters, the Likud mainstream included.

Their absolute commitment to the occupied lands must never be underestimated. Many of them are fully prepared, mentally and technically, to shed blood: to kill Palestinians and Israelis they brand as traitors. The first round of demonstrations may have failed, but the world has just witnessed the very beginning of a prolonged and carefully planned campaign.

Mr. Rabin's response to the demonstrations was curiously hysterical. He is especially touchy about the Golan Heights, whose settlers blame him for breaking several promises he made before the 1992 general elections, pledging that Israel would never withdraw from occupied Syrian territory. His emotional overtones did not go down well with the public, and even liberal commentators emphasised the settlers' right to express their views. Mr. Rabin retorted by blaming the settlers for using schoolchildren in demonstrations, and even harnessed the new minister of education, Amnon Rubinstein of Meretz, getting him to ban pupils' participation in political events.

The liberal but spineless Rubinstein humbly obeyed, incurring much ridicule, even from Meretz. In fact the settlers' tour de force inadvertently helped the prime minister. Their openly racist slogans and threats of violence went a long way to reconstructing his waning image as a man of peace, as far as the Americans were concerned. He was typically slow to understand

the major contribution to his negotiating tactics, the cunning Shimon Peres, as usual, beating him to it. But Washington, overwhelmed with internal difficulties, gives him almost automatic political support. The sleek State Department experts examine the alternatives, and invariably reach the conclusion that Mr. Rabin is better than Likud, and hope that Mr. Peres will gather momentum as time goes by. Ironically, the PLO shares this view, since it must justify its peace process approach before the increasingly sceptical Palestinian public.

Der'i charged with fraud

But Rabin's long list of woes is growing daily, and there is no end in sight. On June 21, Attorney-General Yosef Harish announced his decision to charge Der'i, interior minister, Aryeh Der'i, with fraud and embezzlement, in addition to stealing from the state coffers. The decision, taken after three years of police investigations, is a tricky one. Mr. Der'i is the undisputed leader of the religious party, Shas, who with six members of the Knesset, are a crucial component in Mr. Rabin's coalition government. It is, and always has been, a rather weak component, since most Shas voters are politically right-wing and support Mr. Der'i for complex religious and communal considerations.

It is now feared that Mr. Der'i and his all powerful mentor, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, will decide to abandon Mr. Rabin. This will, in turn, force Mr. Rabin to rely on the narrowest of majorities, 61 MKs out of 120, including the Communists and the Arab Democratic Party. Mr. Rabin thinks (and even more, feels) that the public will refuse to endorse his decisions vis-a-vis the occupied territories without a clear Jewish majority. It is ironic that the right's racist propaganda, aiming at delegitimising the Israeli Arabs as citizens, has been internalised by Mr. Rabin to such a degree. There is a simple explanation, of course.

Mr. Rabin may attempt, once again, to widen his parliamentary base by approaching Tzomet and the National Religious Party, who have eight and six MKs respectively. This may signal the end of the comical peace process.

But the above-mentioned solution is fraught with tremendous difficulties. Shimon Peres and his moderate followers in Labour may align with Meretz to block such a move. Mr. Peres may use any gesture by Mr. Rabin towards the Israeli right to enhance his own position in Washington. The newspapers on June 18, were full of anti-Rabin leaks by government ministers, lamenting his lack of leadership and poor judgement. His attempt to use the first anniversary of his government as a pretext for public celebration was greeted with derision. Mr. Rabin knows very little about public relations, even though he himself is a product of the nonsense industry — Middle East International.

U.N. patrols given the roundabout in Bosnia

By Pascal Barollier
Agence France Presse

VITEZ, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Patrolling the patchwork of Muslim- and Croat-held territory that is central Bosnia is no one's idea of an easy job — least of all when neither side seems to welcome your presence.

But for U.N. patrols criss-crossing the region around this town, the frustrations and thanklessness of that task have become just part of the daily grind of war in former Yugoslavia.

The patrols are officially deployed to keep roads in the area open for humanitarian relief convoys seeking to bring aid to communities isolated by the incessant fighting.

The official reason for their presence can sometimes seem difficult to grasp for some who take part in the daily patrols.

One such patrol has only just left the Croat-held sector of Vitez when it comes upon a crushed car on the side of the road — a sure sign they are entering the uncertainty of no-man's land.

The patrol — three armoured vehicles from the British U.N. Protection Force contingent in Vitez — first heads for the Muslim-held town of Travnik, after reports of mortar attacks there.

The road is lined with deserted houses, windows thick with dust. By every bullet-ridden wall, on every patch of earth, discarded mattresses and television sets vie for space with broken crockery and ripped clothing.

Eventually they come upon three intact houses, with a barrier across the road. A tank-haired Muslim soldier comes out as the vehicles slow down to pass the checkpoint, mined on either side. The man waves vaguely at the passing patrol. But he is clearly unsure of what to do, and the driver of the first vehicle takes advantage of his apparent indecision to drive on.

Further on, Travnik is almost entirely deserted. On the main street a couple of men push wheelbarrows containing water containers. Children look on smilingly. In a doorway, a huddled figure tends to some washing. The patrol, seeing no threat to normal life, turns off down a dirt track heading directly south towards Novi-Travnik, under Croat control.

About a kilometre down the pot-holed road, along which the U.N. vehicles proceed at walking pace on the lookout for mines, the way is suddenly barred by a pile of sand and a burned-out car.

Inequity, population growth combine to fuel record movement of people

On a scale unknown in history — and certain to grow — people around the world are uprooting themselves and migrating in search of a better life, according to a new report of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The report argues that new development strategies aimed at sustainable job growth and fulfilling human aspirations — providing education, health care and family planning services, for example — could ease the pressures that drive migrants into big cities and across international boundaries.

"SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL development policies respond directly to the needs of individuals, wherever they are," concludes The State of World Population, 1993. "Providing reproductive health and family planning services, especially for women and the rural poor, will promote economic development and help reduce the need to migrate."

Migration patterns are a collective expression of millions of individual and family decisions. They reflect the fact that the world as a whole has become more tightly knit by trade, communication, travel and culture. But the magnitude of urban and international migration in recent years is also evidence of more disturbing trends: the expanding gap between rich and poor, rapid population growth and increasing environmental degradation.

"Migrants — except under conditions of extreme political or environmental stress — are not the poorest in their communities; but the springs of migratory movement are found in poverty and economic insecurity," the report states. "The individual woman and man is both the object and the agent of every effective development programme: strengthening their capacity and widening their range of choice is the best guarantee of balanced, sustainable development."

As the report makes clear, the role and status of women play a central role both in migration and in the pressures to migrate. Women are not just the dependents of male migrants. They make up almost half of all who move, and frequently make their own decisions about whether, when and where to move.

Many of these decisions are spurred by women's lack of economic opportunities and the other inequalities that hamper their search for livelihood and quality of life.

Once they migrate, women often make little improvements in their relative status — indeed, their downward mobility as migrants generally far exceeds that of men. To reduce their vulnerability, both to the desperation that often prods them to migrate and to the exploitation they encounter when they do, women need legal protections and such essential services as reproductive health care.

Migration has historically produced social and economic benefits for all concerned, the U.N. agency reports. Even today, annual remittances from international migrants to their families at home amount to \$66 billion, second in its value to the global economy only to oil and larger than all foreign development assistance from governments.

Yet the movement of millions of people annually now strains both industrialised and developing countries, the reports conclude. Some "mega-cities," magnets for migrants from rural areas and small towns, could double in size in a dozen years. Yet services to urban dwellers are declining and rural populations continue to grow, raising doubts about the cities' capacity for absorbing those who want to move there in the future.

With an estimated 100 million international migrants worldwide, the proportion of people living outside their country of birth approaches 2 per cent of the world's population. Of this number, perhaps 17 million are refugees and another 20 million have fled violence, drought and environmental destruction, according to the State of World Population report. No one knows how many people are "internally displaced" within their own countries by the same forces.

Critical to current and future growth in migration is the growth of world population, which will add a record-breaking 98 million people per year this decade, the vast majority of them in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Current population growth is not decisive in determining international migration, which responds as well to resource and labour opportunity imbalances and migrant community networks that evolve over time. It takes about a generation for high population growth rates to affect migration patterns.

"Migration patterns are a collective expression of millions of individuals and family decisions. They reflect the fact that the world as a whole has become more tightly knit by trade, communication, travel and culture. But the magnitude of urban and international migration in recent years is also evidence of more disturbing trends: The expanding gap between rich and poor, rapid population growth and increasing environmental degradation."

"The only effective means to reduce migration pressure over the long term are to slow population growth; to stimulate economic growth and job creation at home, and promote the development of the individual and the family as the basic economic and social unit," the report states. Otherwise, it suggests, migration "could become the human crisis of our age."

Development itself can act to encourage migration, the report notes, as people learn of new possibilities for a better quality of life in distant cities or foreign lands. The best approaches to development would ease migratory pressure over the long term by seeking to develop people's capacity to move, while removing the necessity, the UNFPA report concludes.

Investments in improving the status of women and such services as education and health, including family planning, "help contribute to lower fertility, to economic growth and social balance," states the report. "They help to create an atmosphere in which migration becomes one choice among many."

The report summarises the latest migration research, including the best available estimates of numbers of migrants and refugees and the likely growth of migration in coming years. The report notes that migration decisions are usually entirely rational for those concerned, based on the information available.

"Migration is the visible face of social change," the report notes. "It is a face often greeted with apprehension."

This is especially true in industrialised nations, many of which are becoming less willing to maintain the relatively open gates of the past — despite the fact that the numbers of international migrants are dwarfed by the numbers of those moving from rural areas to cities in their own countries. Unlike the 1960s, when migrant flows were dominated by skilled workers and professionals, family reunification and growing levels of undocumented migration now tilt the balance in favour of unskilled workers.

With today's world a global marketplace of capital, information and culture, the report contends, balanced development offers the best hope that lives will improve, reducing the "push factors" that drive so many individuals and families to uproot themselves.

Developing countries, meanwhile, feed and shelter the overwhelming majority of refugees while trying to discourage their own rural populations from pouring into already bulging and underserved cities.

"As the pressures encouraging migration increase, the options for migrants become more limited," the report notes. These conflicting forces are "contributing to the atmosphere of crisis surrounding both urban and international migration."

Once, migration was "circular," with many migrants returning home from the city or abroad. But this kind of temporary migration is becoming less common today as the kind of jobs that support it — especially seasonal farm labour — have failed to keep pace with demographic growth. Today, most people move to stay.

Overwhelmingly, the biggest movement of people is from the countryside to the city, usually without crossing any national borders. A major reason cities have become so attractive is that rural population growth "exceeds the capacity of the agrarian sector to support it." But this is only one cause of migration. Most development has been concentrated in and around cities, to the disadvantage of rural areas. Wage differences in the two areas are widening and social services are more likely to be found in large cities. Lack of land tenure in agricultural zones means that once the soil is exhausted, there's no reason for farmers to stay with it.

Despite the poverty evident in so many developing world cities, extensive surveys have shown most urban migrants are pleased with their move. Urban advantages are real, despite the lack of good jobs and housing that greet new migrants. Many report they prefer poverty in the city to deprivation and desperation in the countryside.

Since migrants tend to move during their childbearing years, the natural increase caused by their and others' offspring is as important as migration directly, in driving urban growth. Yet migration and its impact remain the dominant element in the changing scale of developing-world cities.

Cities once thrived on this constant influx of new people, but both urban migration and cities themselves are changing rapidly. While cities have been able to absorb the millions of new inhabitants, most urban migrants earn subsistence wages and live in squatter settlements with few amenities or services.

"Migration has always been a feature of development," the report authors state, "but today's migrants are pushing into territory occupied by others." The statement is true not only of urban migration, but international migration and the search for asylum as well.

In detailing the magnitude of the movement of people and the forces that underlie it, the UNFPA report paints a daunting picture of the scale of the problem. The world needs to prepare for still more increases in the number of migrants, which already exceeds any seen before in history.

"Continuing rapid population growth in many parts of the developing world," the report notes, "high levels of natural increase in cities as well as continuing rural-urban migration: the addition of unprecedented numbers of young people, many with some education, to the urban labour force; continuous contact with the values and lifestyles of more affluent countries, coupled with a general rise in expectations, indicate the likelihood of more rather than less international migration in the future."

Yet it is equally clear that both industrialised and developing countries can do much to create conditions that would help ease migratory pressures, especially over the long term. To begin with, nations need to consider urbanisation, international migration and the search for asylum not as separate problems but as different expressions of changing social, economic and political circumstances at the national and global level. Dominating the movement of people are disparities in opportunities, social and economic conditions between the sending and receiving areas. Uncertainty in these movements is exacerbated by unpredictable short and long-term crises that often begin locally but soon have international impacts.

Strategies for dealing with the movement of people need to move beyond economic develop-

ment to the human aspiration for overall quality of life. Because migration is the result of personal and family decisions, it can be influenced by programmes and policies that improve the condition of personal and family life.

"Migration decisions are about family security and long-term life-chances, rather than simply the maximisation of income," the UNFPA report notes. Since migration is at bottom a strategy to better meet individual and household needs, safeguard security and meet aspirations for a better life, development must provide attractive alternatives to simply moving.

To deal with urbanisation many countries have attempted to focus development on the large cities, with only spotty and short-term results. More successful have been programmes that stimulated rural development and job growth in intermediate-sized cities.

Countries that receive interna-

tional migrants must take responsibility for ensuring respect for the foreign-born within existing communities, allowing immigrants to integrate within their surrounding society. Mutual rights and obligations in this sphere need to be clearly stated, according to The State of World Population, 1993.

"At the global level, there is no short cut," the report states: "policies and mechanisms are needed to enable people to live in dignity in their own countries, and to make migration a real choice between opportunities. Attention to the individual dimension of development, in particular the contributions and interests of women, will be a key element of any such policies."

Among the steps needed to make this choice real:

— Provision of social services such as education, health care and family planning, especially in rural areas. Special attention should be paid to the needs for

maternal/child health and reproductive health care of migrant women in marginal situations.

— In urban areas, more attention must be paid to infrastructure and services for the poor. Growth of small and medium-sized cities should be encouraged, with employment, educational and social opportunities that address both urban and rural development.

— Industrialised nations should consider the impact of their own economic, trade and development policies on international migration. And the international community should promote the exchange of information on national trends and policies in migration.

"Experience suggests that effective programmes in all these areas must be built slowly and carefully, with emphasis on the individual and the family, but in the context of national policy and institutional reform," the report

states. "The legal and political environment must allow for a greater measure of control over their own lives by those at the bottom of the scale."

Policies and programmes aimed at enhancing the status of women and at individual well-being will take time and will demand patience. The needed effort "will take a generation or more to have their full effect," the report predicts.

But that need not mean that new approaches will do nothing to resolve the migration problems communities and nations are dealing with today. Because the new approaches to development "affect directly many areas of individual, family and community life, they will have an immediate impact. The perception that the international community and government, at all levels, were committed to real change would help stimulate a positive response."



In time of war or civil crisis, women bear the burden of keeping the family together. Up to 25 per cent of refugees

are women or girls. This Ethiopian family is being bussed to safety in Kenya (UNHCR photo)

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Most refugees go from one developing country to another. These Kurdish refugees were escaping war in their homeland in 1990 (UNHCR photo)

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France is in recession

PARIS (R) — France's downturn has achieved the classic textbook status of recession, according to official data published Thursday which showed the economy shrinking in two consecutive quarters.

The National Statistics Institute said total gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 0.5 per cent in the first three months of this year after a drop of 0.3 per cent the previous quarter.

Market sector GDP figures, which exclude state activities such as health and education, was down 0.6 per cent and downward revisions to previous quarters showed that 1992 was far weaker than had at first been thought.

This measure of GDP has not grown for 12 months and — using the textbook definition —

showed that the onset of recession came as early as mid-1992.

The data, delayed because the implementation of new procedures accompanying the opening of the European Community's single market on Jan. 1 had slowed the collection of trade figures, coincided with its latest economic forecasts.

They were not much brighter. The government, acknowledging the depth of the recession, recently lowered its forecast for 1993's slide in market GDP to 0.8 per cent. But the institute is looking a fall of 1.2 per cent.

The conservative government, which came to power after a sweeping general election in March, has cut interest rates 10 times in the last 10 weeks to crank up the drooping economy and

World Bank loan commitments hit record

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank has said new lending commitments totalled a record \$23.7 billion for the year that ended June 30.

That compared with lending commitments of \$21.7 billion a year earlier.

The multilateral lending agency said commitments amounted to \$16.9 billion for some 122 projects. The remainder was taken up by 123 projects sponsored by the International Development Association, which

makes loans with below-market rates to the poorest countries.

Funding actually disbursed during the year was \$18 billion, against \$16.5 billion a year earlier, according to preliminary figures.

The bank noted new lending to Africa totalled \$2.8 billion, a \$1.2 billion decline from the year earlier, due in part to administrative delays resulting from political transitions in a number of countries.

The East Asia and Pacific re-

China rejects ranking as world's third-biggest economy

BEIJING (AFP) — China has played up its status as a low-income developing country, rejecting its ranking by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the third biggest economy in the world.

"Evidently, China faces an arduous road to prosperity," the Xinhua news agency quoted a State Statistical Bureau spokesman as saying, in China's most comprehensive rejection yet of the purchasing power parity (PPP) system of calculating the size of a country's economy.

"Without mentioning the IMF by name, the spokesman said China's ranking behind the United States and Japan by "certain international organisations" was an over estimation of its economic strength.

The IMF in May revised country rankings after recalculating the size of economies according to the PPP system.

Under the new system, which compares purchasing power in each country, China shot up the rankings from 10 to three. Despite IMF assurances, the move sparked fears here the new ranking would affect loan policy.

The official was quoted as

Apple Computer plans to lay off 2,500

CUPERTINO, California (AFP) — Apple Computer Inc. plans to lay off 2,500 of its 16,000 employees over the next year as part of a long awaited restructuring.

Most of the lay-offs are expected this month, the U.S. computer maker said. About 400 employees in Europe are expected to be affected in the next three months.

Details of the restructuring are due to be released shortly.

The cost of laying off the Apple employees will show up in its third quarter results. That quarter ended on June 25.

For the second quarter, which ended in March, Apple recorded a 17 per cent drop in profits over the same period last year at \$110.9 million (92 cents per share). Revenues for the period were up 15 per cent at 1.9 billion.

Analysts have chided Apple for being slow to respond to the huge demand for its Macintosh computers and its portable Powerbook, while cutting prices to remain competitive with its competitors in a vicious price war.

JD 1 million garment shipment sent to Ireland

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first shipment of locally manufactured jeans trousers is on its way to Ireland, following the successful promotional programme organised here recently by the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centre Corporation (JEDCO).

A JEDCO spokesman said that the JD 1 million shipment was one of several orders placed during and after the promotional programme which was attended by a large number of Arab and foreign importers and businessmen.

JEDCO organised a special three-day promotional programme on the garment and leather industry in Jordan and the event, held at the Royal Cultural Centre, was part of the corporation's activities to project plans to develop the garment and leather industry in Jordan, said Rami Ma'ayya, JEDCO marketing specialist.

He told the Jordan Times that around 200 guests, mainly members of commercial and diplomatic corps in Jordan, bankers, management consultants and many key figures in the industry attended the meeting.

The delegates reviewed various aspects of a JEDCO project to develop the garment and leather sector, he said.

The event was followed by a special product exhibition for 40 leading Jordanian garment and leather manufacturers.

According to Mr. Ma'ayya, international buyers from Europe and North America who participated in the event were impressed and showed keen interest in many of the products on show.

The visitors, he added, placed orders with several manufacturers. The estimated value of orders placed of under negotiations was almost JD 7.9 million.

He said the exporters were due to export most of the ordered shipments in the coming two to three months.

G-7 leaders announce jobs strategy

TOKYO (AFP) — The G-7 summit adopted a "global growth strategy" Friday while warning that growth alone would not overcome a crisis of unemployment throughout the industrialised world.

"A significant part of the current level of unemployment is structural in nature," the G-7 summit's closing declaration said, acknowledging that economic recovery would not create so many jobs as it had in the past.

"Reducing unemployment, therefore, requires a double strategy: Prudent macroeconomic policies to promote non-inflationary sustainable growth, and structural reforms to improve the efficiency of markets, especially labour markets," the declaration pointed out.

The need to increase the savings rate, control health care spending and reduce subsidies were also cited, but no specifics were given.

With 23 million people now officially out of work in the G-7 countries of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, joblessness was the most immediate problem facing most of the G-7 leaders here.

They described unemployment as "unacceptable" and a "critical problem which saps the strength of our societies."

But the economic declaration, and the leaders in separate news conferences, did not forecast how fast and by how much unemployment would fall.

The declaration said that progress towards conclusion of the Uruguay Round of talks under the GATT made here earlier this week was a major step to boost trade, which would in turn encourage growth and job creation.

British Prime Minister John Major said that success at the GATT would "break down the barriers to growth and break down the barriers to jobs."

The document calls for close economic consultations between the G-7 countries and for their finance ministers to meet for a "jobs summit" in the United States towards the end of this year.

Even some top G-7 officials were openly sceptical of the likely outcome of such a meeting.

"I am in favour of anything that has to do with creating jobs," French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said. "But what would we do at such a summit?"

A "summit" alone was "not going to reduce unemployment," he said.

Short-term forecasts are not encouraging. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) — cited in the economic declaration — expects unemployment in its 24 member countries to rise from an average of 8.5 per cent this year to 8.6 per cent next year. That could mean that 36 million people would be out of work in the industrial nations early in 1994.

The corresponding figures for the G-7 countries — 7.5 per cent this year and the same in 1994 — are only slightly better, and five of the seven G-7 countries have double-digit unemployment levels which are expected to persist throughout next year at least, the OECD says.

According to the declaration, G-7 governments have already undertaken policies which will pave the way for future growth.

Western European governments are committed to budgetary and other measures which would open the way for cuts in interest rates, deficits and coming down in North America, and Japan has taken stimulative measures, it said.

The declaration apart from pressing for improvements in training and education, shed no light on how labour markets would be made more efficient.

However, a report by G-7 finance ministers released Thursday called for "greater wage flexibility" and a review of "elements of social insurance schemes and regulations that unduly discourage job creation."

The G-7 declaration, however, appeared to be a political compromise between countries which want to cut social benefits to force more people into less well-paid jobs or training, and other nations which favour a strengthening of social protection, one observer said.

A Japanese official, who worked with the "sherpas" preparing the economic declaration, said the officials were under some pressure "to put a rosy glow on it."

Some economists worry that the link between economic recovery and job creation has been weakened in the rich industrialised countries because of productivity gains and the increasing shift of manufacturing to low-wage developing countries.

Dublin agrees aid for ailing Aer Lingus

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish government has agreed to keep loss-making state airline Aer Lingus in the air with a controversial 175 million punt (\$250 million) cash injection.

Transport Minister Brian Cowen told parliament the new money was essential to the survival of the carrier.

"We must do everything required to ensure that the national airline not only survives but has a firm basis for successful operation in the future," Mr. Cowen said.

"The crisis facing our national airline is the gravest in its history."

Aer Lingus management had sought the equity injection to help it cope with debts of 540 million punts (\$771.8 million) and losses running at 1.0 million punts (\$1.43 million) a week.

Airline executive chairman Bernie Cahill welcomed the decision and said it "clears the way

for urgent implementation of the range of measures to return Aer Lingus to profitability."

Aer Lingus also proposes a broader restructuring package including 1,500 job cuts — or one in eight staff — the disposal of two Boeing 767 aircraft and a hotel chain.

But the most controversial measure domestically will be an end to a 48-year-old requirement that all Aer Lingus trans-Atlantic flights stop at Shannon in the west of Ireland — a government-

directed attempt to boost the local economy.

On most flights that means a costly 130 mile (210 km) diversion to and from the capital Dublin. Aer Lingus said the stopover added to losses of 14.4 million punts (\$20.58 million) on the trans-Atlantic routes in 1992/93.

Competitors in the European Community (EC) have warned they will challenge any government bail-out of the airline if they believe it amounts to unfair competition.

Philippines at make or break point, says president

CAUAYAN, Philippines (R) — The Philippines, its economy sapped by a severe power crisis, faces probably its last chance to catch up with its booming Asian neighbours, President Fidel Ramos said.

Speaking aboard his presidential plane on return from one of his frequent trips to the provinces, Mr. Ramos said he believed the country was on the verge of takeoff but first had to get to the starting line in the race for prosperity.

"This could be the last race that we will be into and we will have to be at the starting line," he said Saturday in an interview with Reuters.

"Vietnam is there, Hong Kong is there, China is there, Oceania is there, Myanmar (Burma) is there. Some have gone ahead already and we are trying to catch up but we want to be at the starting line," he pointed out.

Lamenting the nation's history of divisiveness and corruption, he said it was vital to unify the Philippines behind a single policy goal.

In the interview, Mr. Ramos acknowledged that power cuts of seven or eight hours a day in Manila have stifled growth.

He called the shortages an engineering problem that should be solved by next year.

Asked why investors should choose the Philippines over other nations, he said the country still had a lot going for it with its central location, educated, English-speaking workers and friendly people.

"It is just that we have run into a string of bad luck during the past 20 years. Basically the people here, the environment here, the resources here are better than any other country in our neighbourhood," he pointed out.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 10, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Elevate your level of consciousness to your highest today as you confront some unusual circumstances that at first may not appear to be of major importance, but will prove, as time moves forward...

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can uncover the ways and means to periodic or from experts by which to improve the quality and the quantity of the work you have to do.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Now you can use some of this day for self improvement purposes as well as considering and studying ways and means to enjoy your spare hours.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) There are many things that you can do to improve conditions at your dwelling place and this is the perfect day to get busy and do them well.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have many errands and some shopping to do what have been put off so get out in the world of activity and get these done right now.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Now you have a good day to yourself make or arrange to make those improvements on your property and possessions so they are more valuable, etc.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider early in the day the things that will make your personality happier, and spend some of your extra day making them a part of your life.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) There are a multitude of odds and ends that are of a very private nature that you can do and get in back of you with dispatch on this day.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good day for you to make a special point to contact or otherwise let good friends, and interesting acquaintances know you have not forgotten them.

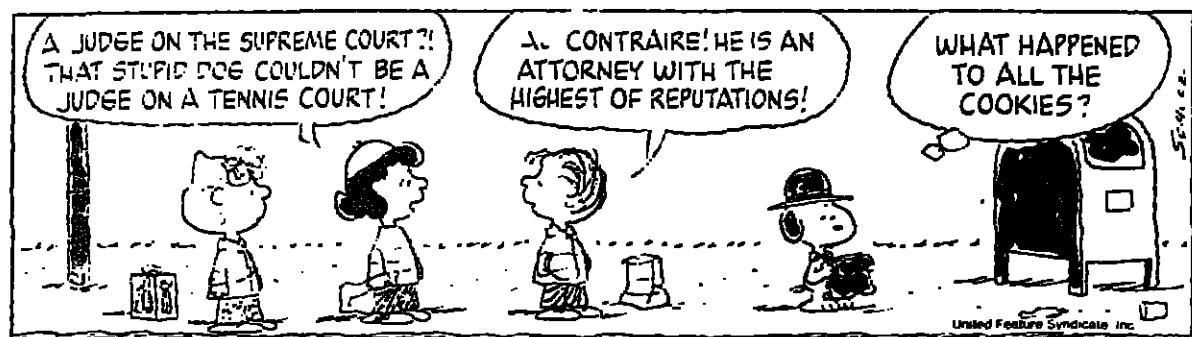
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) These duties in the public places that you have put off doing can now be done by you and with your good results so be off to do them early.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now you have a day to be off and away to have some pleasant times and recreations that you are not able to enjoy during the busy week.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A day to use this day at the various money and other practical matters that need some personal attention from you, make collections, pay accounts.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have some arrangements with others that are unclear to you or that need revision you now have a very good day to discuss, change with a partner.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN VIDEO RENTALS

"She wants romance, I want action. Got a movie where two people fall in love, then blow up?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NALTS
NORIM
CLAFIA
KERUBE

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TOKEN BELLE ADRIET FLORIO
Answer: The kind of gift some youngsters might kick about — A FOOTBALL

THE Daily Crossword

by Stanley B. Whitten

ACROSS
1 Strikebreaker
5 Food
10 Gray's place
14 Premier
15 Musical composition
16 Author of "The Hobbit"
17 "We Got It"
18 Book of maps
19 Revue
20 Worry
21 Diamond
22 "The Great Gatsby"
23 "Forever"
24 "The Great Gatsby"
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60 "The Great Gatsby"

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ROSS PAGER OSSA
ANTI EMOLE ALOL
JOHN TIMES TOL
ARC WIDE OVERDO
RETTLE STRAND
ALDIE TATIS OTY
SIDE TOTIS FRA
PIN PATAS ADAM
SEE ALER CALMER
SHRIMP ALSO
WHOLE DORIA CAO
LORD MINE ELIA
LOBS NOTES ASTA

50 Problem
51 How many
52 Musical
53 Small musical
54 Bank cloth
55 Oklahoma City
56 Singer
57 James
58 Turt
59 Color

Bosnian Serb, Croat strongmen snub U.N. army chiefs again

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Bosnia's Serb and Croat military leaders snubbed U.N. commanders for the second time Friday when they refused to attend a meeting convened here to sign an accord confirming the city as a safe area, a U.N. spokesman said.

"Bosnian army chief Ratko Mladic said some work was still needed before he could sign, and his Bosnian Croat counterpart Milivoj Petkovic found the road to the city 'too dangerous,'" U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Barry Frewer explained.

"The two leaders turned down an invitation to an identical meeting Tuesday chaired by General Philippe Morillon, outgoing commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, and attended by General Jean Cot, the new commander-in-chief of U.N. troops in the former Yugoslavia."

"Commander Frewer admitted the rejections were disappointing and that, without Gen. Mladic's cooperation, it would be difficult for the U.N. to implement its resolution naming Sarajevo as one of six safe areas in Bosnia."

"We are not in a position to force a military surrender on either side," Maj. Frewer said.

The double-snub came as the U.N. command awaited the arrival of 150 French reinforcements drafted into the city to help enforce the resolution.

The troops were still waiting for authorisation to cross a Serbian roadblock between Kiseljak

and Sarajevo, a French officer said.

UNPROFOR also reported heavy shelling in the eastern Bosnian Muslim enclave of Gorazde, another of the U.N.-declared safe areas, and in the northeastern town of Gradacac, adding that the Bosnian army had reported violent clashes in the central town of Zepce.

Meanwhile U.N. and aid convoy personnel encountered new administrative obstacles imposed by Serbian authorities, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in Geneva.

Convoy drivers and U.N. workers were now required by Belgrade to renew their visas after just three return trips to Bosnia, the UNHCR said.

The practice drew a sharp reprimand Friday from UNHCR chief Sadako Ogata, who described as cowardly the use of bureaucracy as a weapon of war.

Mrs. Ogata also criticised what she described as the "ransoming" of UNHCR convoys bound for Sarajevo by Bosnian Serb militiamen, who were depriving the city of the fuel supplies essential for the running of water pumps, generators and food delivery vehicles.

Mrs. Ogata added that the UNHCR was operating in an increasingly dangerous environment, and having received just 130 million of the 420 million in international contributions earmarked for 1993, remaining funds

were sufficient to sustain its operation for only another three or four weeks.

Meanwhile international peace mediator Lord Owen left Belgrade for Zagreb following talks with Serb President Slobodan Milosevic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, Lord Owen's spokesman John Mills said.

Lord Owen's co-mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg, who also attended the talks, was to leave Belgrade later Friday, Mr. Mills said.

Mr. Milosevic Thursday declared that a "definitive solution" to the Bosnian crisis was now in sight, a view that was apparently not shared by international mediators.

Lord Owen and Mr. Stoltenberg stressed after three hours of talks with Mr. Milosevic that maps defining the boundaries of a proposed confederation in Bosnia-Herzegovina had yet to be agreed upon.

Serbia and Croatia have called for the division of Bosnia into three ethnic states — Serb, Croat and Muslim — that would be linked together in a loose confederation.

The plan has to date been rejected by Bosnian Muslim leaders.

While acknowledging that the maps posed the principal problem, Mr. Milosevic told reporters: "I think that we are on the threshold of a definitive solution."



A Bosnian Serb soldier ducks after firing a mortar near the north Bosnian city of Doboj Thursday (AFP photo)

Police arrest 400 South Korean students on eve of Clinton visit

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korean riot police Friday arrested some 400 dissident students who were protesting the planned visit here of U.S. President Bill Clinton, eyewitnesses said.

The police arrested the students as they were trying to enter the campus of Dongkook University to link up with hundreds of other members of the Korean Federation of University Students.

The protest occurred ahead of Mr. Clinton's arrival Saturday for two days of talks with President Kim Young-Sam and top officials expected to focus on maintaining strong security ties and beefing up bilateral trade.

Hundreds of other students were gathered across town at Hanyang University to avoid the police dragnet thrown around Dongkook University, near where White House advance

team staffers were housed at the Shilla Hotel.

The students held anti-U.S. placards and shouted slogans such as, "We can live without the U.S." and "Yankee, go home."

Some 2,000 riot police bearing shields and truncheons surrounded the Dongkook University campus, as hundreds of other riot police were seen throughout the capital, especially around U.S. embassy facilities and near the ambassador's residence, where Mr. Clinton and his wife Hillary will be staying.

South Korean dissidents have traditionally blamed the United States for the post-World War II partition of the Korean peninsula between U.S. and Soviet occupation forces.

They also allege that successive South Korean governments were mere puppets of the United States, which continues to maintain some 36,000 troops here since leading U.N. forces against the invading North Korean and Chinese in the 1950-1953 Korean War.

Meanwhile U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Friday Washington has begun to explore with the international community the kinds of sanctions that might be imposed if North Korea fails to halt its suspected nuclear programme.

He also expressed optimism that China, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, would not block such penalties, and played down concerns about the possibility that Japan might one day become a nuclear state.

He made his comments to reporters on the fringes of the Group of Seven (G-7) economic summit.

Doctors perform pioneering transplant on baby

LONDON (R) — Doctors carried out what they said was the world's first heart and bone marrow transplant performed on a victim of the rare Pompe's disease, operating on a six-month-old baby in a hospital in southern England.

Heart transplant surgeon Sir Magdi Yacoub headed the team at the Harefield Hospital in Middlesex, which operated on Hal Brodhurst, who suffers from the inherited, genetic disorder.

"The bone marrow infusion took 20 minutes and went extremely well," a hospital spokesman said. "Doctors are pleased with the procedure."

The infant underwent a successful heart transplant on June 23 and received the infusion of bone marrow from the same donor Wednesday.

"The heart transplant on Hal was to save his life, but the bone marrow transplant is to kill the disease," Dr. Yacoub said before the operation.

Pompe's disease is caused by a defective enzyme which causes an enlarged heart. Sufferers are weak, are subject to heart failure, and generally die before they are two years old. Doctors hope the infusion of bone marrow will translate itself into the baby's system and help fight the disease.

The baby is listed in critical condition and doctors said it will be weeks before they can tell if the procedure was successful.

No one immediately claims \$110 million lottery prize

FOND DU LAC, Wisconsin (AP) — A crowd gathered early outside the grocery store on South Main Street, hoping to catch a glimpse of whoever bought the richest lottery ticket in U.S. history — a red-and-white slip of paper worth a cool \$110 million.

Someone bought the single winning entry in the Powerball Lottery — played in 14 states and Washington, D.C. — at Sentry food store-south less than four hours before Wednesday night's drawing. By Thursday morning, lottery computers quickly pinpointed the winning location as the grocery in this blue-collar town on Lake Winnebago that is already renowned for cashing in on big-lottery payoffs.

"We're curious. It's so exciting," said Jean Woodley. "But we're getting antsy. They have to show up sooner or later."

In fact, the mystery individual or Powerball poolers have 180 days to claim the whopping prize, either at the store or the state lottery office.

The ticket-buyer purchased the square stub with the 1-in-55-million sequence on a street that Wisconsin lottery spokesman Steve Madsen dubbed "miracle mile."

In 1990, two other customers bought winning tickets for multimillion-dollar lottery prizes at a store and a gas station on "miracle mile," they win big," he said.

'El Gordo' rains riches on commoners, king

MADRID (AP) — They don't call it "the fat one" for nothing. "El Gordo," Spain's big annual lottery, is billed as the world's richest. It paid out the tax-free equivalent of \$285 million to last year's winner, dwarfing the U.S. record of \$11 million won by a lucky ticket-holder this week in the Powerball Lottery.

Lotteries are big business in Spain, a nation of inveterate slot-machine and bingo players. Statistics indicate that Spaniards are surpassed only by Filipinos in their per capita spending on gambling. The televised El Gordo drawing several days before Christmas brings the country to a standstill each year as schoolchildren trill out numbers of engraved on small balls that spill out of a spinning cage.

Ticket holders from Avila to Zaragoza peek at their five-digit numbers and bite their fingernails, hoping their turn will come to break out the sparkling champagne. Even King Juan Carlos won 15,000 pesetas (\$136) last year. El Gordo, the biggest of 52 weekly drawings in Spain's 230-year-old National Lottery, paid out \$1.3 billion last December on 95 winning numbers.

Newsweek loses Seoul libel case

SEOUL (AFP) — A South Korean court has ordered Newsweek magazine to pay three Ewha Women's University students \$37,500 each for publishing their pictures without permission.

The Seoul District Civil Court ruled Thursday that a 1991 photo of three glamourously dressed women taken without their consent under the caption "slaves to money" violated their right to privacy and amounted to libel. It was the first time a South Korean court has found against a foreign publication in a libel suit.

The Ewha graduates had demanded \$130,000 in damages for the picture published in a November 1991 cover story on South Korea's conspicuous consumption.

Major defies unpopularity, pledges new cuts

TOKYO (R) — British Prime Minister John Major shrugged off fresh signs of his unpopularity at home Friday and signalled tough measures to further cut welfare spending.

Mr. Major told reporters at the end of the three-day Group of Seven (G-7) summit that all the leading economies, except Japan, would have to take hard decisions to cut their budget deficits.

"I think people will prefer those home truths rather than empty promises," he said. His government is reconsidering all its social spending as it tackles a £50 billion (\$70 billion) budget deficit.

Mr. Major conceded that it had been "a rough old 12 months for the economy" in Britain but played down an opinion poll in the

London Daily Telegraph showing he and his Conservative Party had sunk to record low popularity ratings.

The poll showed that only 18.4 per cent of 1,100 people questioned felt he was the best person to lead the country.

Only 24.5 per cent said they would vote for the Conservatives in an election now, below even the minority Liberal Democrats, who recorded 26.5 per cent.

Mr. Major said he recalled that opinion polls before the April 1992, general election had also indicated he would lose, but he stunned the pundits by winning a small overall majority.

"I am not overly concerned about opinion polls," he smiled. Asked by a British journalist

whether he ever felt like quitting, he said: "Do I look like it?"

Mr. Major has struggled through a year of policy U-turns and ministerial misjudgments that have overshadowed signs that the economy is beginning to recover after a two-year recession.

He stressed the upturn in the economy, with inflation falling to below two per cent, interest rates at six per cent, exports booming and four successive months of falling unemployment.

"When you strip away lots of the short-term, sensational matters that have dominated people's interest in the United Kingdom over the last year, that is the reality of what has happened," he said.

U.K. rules out joint sovereignty over N. Ireland

LONDON (AFP) — The British government has ruled out the possibility of joint Anglo-Irish sovereignty over Northern Ireland, saying such an arrangement would be unacceptable to the majority of people in the province.

Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew was speaking after five hours of talks here with Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, who had suggested joint authority in a newspaper interview Thursday.

Sir Patrick said he had been surprised by Mr. Spring's "radical" suggestion that Dublin was willing to negotiate a framework settlement for Northern Ireland directly with London — bypassing the province's nationalist and unionist politicians.

Mr. Spring had said proposals could later be presented to the Northern Irish parties for approval. If they threatened to veto them, the package could then be put to the test in a referendum in both Northern and Southern Ireland.

Sir Patrick said: "These talks are not going to end with agreement upon joint authority over Northern Ireland, that is to say joint sovereignty, joint authority, Irish and British government."

"Not only because of the practical considerations which immediately arise but that would not be acceptable to the majority of the people living there."

"The British government holds to the principle that any new arrangement must have the consent of the community."

The talks ended with a joint statement pledging the support of both governments for efforts to restart the stalled peace talks involving the main constitutional parties in Northern Ireland.

Sir Patrick said he was confident the parties would get back to negotiations, although Unionists here said to be furious at Mr. Spring's remarks in the interview.

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Miyazawa faces sea of troubles after G-7 summit

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, after revelling in his role as host of the Group of Seven summit, is now facing triple trouble — an uphill election battle, plunging support ratings and a new scandal.

To add to his woes, his chief aide, 78-year-old Deputy Premier Masaharu Gotoda, collapsed with a heart condition late Thursday in the midst of the campaign for the July 18 general election.

Numerous polls predict the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), mired in pay-off scandals, will lose its parliamentary majority this month for the first time since its formation in 1955.

Mr. Gotoda, who is also justice minister, had been expected to play a key role in wooing potential coalition partners to enable the LDP to keep control of the crucial lower house and maintain its grip on power.

"He's well known for his anti-corruption views and has strong links to leaders of the new parties and opposition groups," said an LDP headquarters official. "He was mentioned as a possible future party leader and prime minister."

Kyodo News Agency and other media said Mr. Gotoda had been a strong candidate to head a coalition with LDP splinter parties. Some reports said he was considering resigning from the cabinet after the summit to improve his post-election chances.

Although Mr. Gotoda may well resurface as a key figure in the party, his illness had sidelined him at just the time he could have been most helpful to Mr. Miyazawa and the LDP.

Angry over Mr. Miyazawa's broken promise to clean up corrupt politics, pro-reform rebels bolted the LDP last month and set up two centre-right splinter parties, the Shinseitō (Japan Renewal Party) and the Shinto Sakegake (Harbinger New Party).

Along with the fast-rising Japan New Party (JNP), formed by an LDP rebel last year, these two groups are climbing rapidly in opinion polls and look set to grab a good share of the conservative vote.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yeltsin, Miyazawa to meet in mid-October

TOKYO (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa agreed leaders of the two countries would meet in mid-October, Mr. Yeltsin told reporters Friday. "We've agreed on meeting again some time in the middle of October, and there will be a visit by the president of Russia to Japan where we will be ready to tackle these issues," Mr. Yeltsin said in response to a question on the disputed Kuril Islands. The Kurils have long been a point of bitter dispute between the two countries as the former Soviet Union has occupied the four islands north of Japan since the end of World War II.

Gonzalez confirmed for fourth term

MADRID (R) — Socialist leader Felipe Gonzalez Friday won a parliamentary vote of confidence confirming him as Spain's prime minister for a fourth consecutive term. Mr. Gonzalez, backed by his own Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) and Basque and Catalan nationalists, won the required absolute majority in the 350-seat Congress (lower house) with 181 votes in favour, 165 against and one abstention. Three deputies were absent from the house. The vote came at the end of a two-day debate in which Mr. Gonzalez, 51, pledged a government of dialogue and compromise with job creation and measures to combat economic recession its top priorities. Mr. Gonzalez told reporters after the vote he expected to have his new cabinet ready by next Tuesday, the day before the ceremonial opening of parliament by King Juan Carlos. The administration would be a "combination of experience and new faces," the prime minister said.

U.K., China to speed up Hong Kong talks

PEKING (AFP) — China and Britain signalled a softening in their feud here Friday, agreeing to speed up talks on a row over democratic reform in Hong Kong to ensure a smooth transition of sovereignty in 1997. British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told journalists after meeting with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen that after five sessions of clearing away the undergrowth, "in the last two rounds, the discussion has been more substantial."

He said British leaders welcomed the "specific ideas" China was now putting forward. But, said Mr. Hurd, who arrived here Thursday from the Group of Seven summit in Tokyo for a flying visit, the two sides had agreed on the need for more rapid progress and would instruct their negotiators to advance as rapidly as possible. Mr. Qian told Mr. Hurd, "now it is time for us to push forward Sino-British relations," because only by restoring mutual trust and cooperation could they ensure Hong Kong's prosperity and stability, Xinhua News Agency said.

Russian troops killed in shootout

LEIPZIG, Germany (AFP) — Three Russian soldiers were killed in a shootout with colleagues on board a goods train transporting Russian weaponry, a police source said Friday. The men died as several troops with machine guns fired at each other Thursday evening at Taucha near Leipzig, eastern Germany, the source said. The soldiers were overseeing the weapons transport, which was en route for Mukran in northeastern Mecklenburg-Vorpommern state. The driver stopped the train when he heard the firing, and almost 90 police were rushed to the scene, police said. A fourth soldier survived the shootout, for which no explanation has been given, the sources said.

10 killed in S. African township

DURBAN, South Africa (AFP) — Gunmen killed 10 people Friday in a pre-dawn raid in Ezakheni, a rural township in South Africa's Natal province, police and the African National Congress (ANC) said. An ANC spokesman, quoted by the South African Press Association, said a minibus full of attackers "started shooting at 6:10 a.m. (0400 GMT) and we have heard that 10 people are dead." Police confirmed the deaths, but gave no other details.

Germany, Japan gain support for U.N. Council seats

TOKYO (R) — Germany insisted Friday it wanted nothing less than a permanent United Nations Security Council seat with full veto powers as moves to upgrade its status in the world body gained further support.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking at the end of the Group of Seven (G-7) summit of industrial powers in Tokyo, firmly rejected a Japanese idea that new permanent members might not have the decisive right to veto resolutions they did not like.

As Mr. Kohl spoke, Britain and France — which originally balked at the idea of admitting the two defeated World War II powers — said they were now open to expanding the Council to reflect changes in the world since the United Nations was born in 1945.

Germany said Thursday it and Japan would coordinate their drive for a Security Council seat, which Tokyo hopes they can take

over on the United Nations' 50th anniversary in 1995.

The five main World War II victors — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France — are permanent Council members and can veto initiatives the other 10 members, who serve on a rotating basis, may support.

Mr. Kohl played down the membership issue at a news conference, telling journalists it did not come up in official talks at the G-7 summit and "wasn't a very important topic in the informal talks either."

But when asked if he supported Tokyo's hints it could accept a permanent seat without veto powers, he responded firmly: "There can be no talk of that."

"If anyone makes any such demands at a later date, they will not be acceptable to us."

The United States came out last month in full support of a reform of the Council while Britain and France — both originally

opposed to German membership but too diplomatic to say so publicly — remained wary.

Russia and China have not yet made their positions clear.

British Prime Minister John Major said Germany and Japan could claim a right to a Council seat "by virtue of their global interest and contribution to international security."

Both he and French President Francois Mitterrand ruled out giving up their seats for a joint European Community seat.

"The permanent membership of any member, including the United Kingdom, is not, of course, in question," Mr. Major added.

He welcomed Mr. Kohl's efforts to scrap clauses in Bonn's 1949 constitution that bar its armed forces from fighting outside NATO and noted Japan also aimed at taking a full part in U.N. operations like peacekeeping missions abroad.

Peru MPs want outside probe of mass grave

LIMA (AFP) — Congressmen have asked that a team of international investigators look into a mass grave discovered here Thursday because they fear local experts might be coerced or threatened to file false reports.

Fragments of three decomposing bodies were unearthed Thursday in a ravine, leading reporters to speculate they may belong to nine students and a professor who disappeared a year ago during a military raid on Enrique Guzman Valle University near Lima, also known as La Cantuta.

Socialist opposition congressman Henry Pease urged the Congressional Assembly to request that

three experts from the Inter-American Human Rights Committee be sent to Lima to ensure a fair and competent investigation of the remains.

Mr. Pease was concerned over the impartiality of local forensic experts, saying that they could be forced to hide evidence and undermine the investigation.

The president of the Congressional Human Rights Committee, Roger Caceres, suggested reopening an investigation into last year's disappearances.

Congressman Gilberto Siura, of the governing Change 90 Party, seconded Mr. Caceres' proposal, and called for an emergency

meeting of the committee that probed the military raid on La Cantuta.

At the time of the disappearances, the army was involved in a major anti-subversive offensive, targeting Shining Path guerrillas and their sympathisers. The university was regarded by the military as a haven for Maoist guerrillas.

Amnesty International said earlier Thursday it planned to widen its probe into the fate of the missing 10. On Wednesday, members of the London-based human rights organisation visited the university campus.

Japan brought up the issue of a veto-less seat Tuesday when it formally announced it wanted to be a permanent member of the Council but left vague if it sought veto rights.

Foreign Ministry officials said a note of intent about a permanent seat, possibly on a Council of about 20 members, would be submitted to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Mr. Kohl said his only discussion of the council issue was with Indonesian President Suharto, in Tokyo before the summit to represent the Non-Aligned Movement of developing countries.

The movement supports German and Japanese seats as part of an expanded group of permanent members including Indonesia, India, Nigeria and Brazil.

Bribery player exposed Tapie

PARIS (AFP) — Olympique Marseille President Bernard Tapie was been drawn further into France's match-rigging scandal by the footballer at the centre of the affair, Valenciennes' Christophe Robert.

Mr. Tapie has interviewed Tuesday about allegations that he had offered money to former Valenciennes coach Boro Primorac, in return for taking the blame for attempts to rig a Valenciennes-Marseille league match on March 20.

Robert, who is facing corruption charges after admitting receiving 250,000 francs, now reveals that he telephoned Mr. Tapie at his Paris home two days after the game, informed sources said Friday.

The footballer's revelation comes after a piece of paper was discovered at Robert's home in Valenciennes, bearing Mr. Tapie's phone number in the capital.

The subject of the alleged conversation was not revealed.

However, Robert claimed that Mr. Tapie was not worried about receiving the call and that the Marseille chief even said "My telephone is being tapped, but I don't care."

Robert has also apparently told police and investigating Judge Bernard Beffy that: "Bernard Tapie did not try to tell me what I should do. And he was careful not to talk about money."

The sources said the Valenciennes player then provided another controversial link with Mr. Tapie and Marseille defender Jean-Jacques Eydelie, who is accused of being the middleman in the bribery scandal.

Robert was told Judge Beffy about a phone call he claims to have had with Eydelie, during which the Marseille defender declared he was calling at the personal request of Mr. Tapie, following a conversation between the two Marseille men aboard Mr. Tapie's yacht Phocaea.

Eydelie has denied such a conversation with Robert.

Along with Robert and Eydelie, three others have been charged with corruption in the scandal: Robert's wife, his teammate Jorge Burricchaga and Mr. Tapie's right-hand man, Marseille General Manager Jean-Pierre Bernes.

Eydelie's wife Christine has meanwhile caused trouble for her husband, telling police that he had admitted the attempted bribery to her but had said he was acting at the request of Bernes, reliable sources said Friday.

Eydelie, currently in jail, has so far denied involvement in any corruption.

His wife, who went missing soon after the affair started, has found and detained by police in the Nantes region Thursday.

The two couples are closely linked: Robert and Eydelie were former teammates at Nantes, and Eydelie is godfather of the Robert's child.



Andre Cason (right) of the U.S. crosses the finish line to win the 100 metre race in Lausanne. At left is compatriot Carl Lewis who finished second (AFP photo)

Cason hits the hat-trick in Lausanne

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AFP) — American Andre Cason confirmed his status as the sprinter to watch by beating Carl Lewis on his way to a third victory in a row here.

Cason got away to a fine start to win in 10.04sec but Lewis was closing in the final stages after a typically strong second half.

He overtook Namibian Olympic silver medalist Frankie Fredericks five metres from the line but could not catch Texan Cason as he finished three hun-

dreds of a second behind.

Cason's victory came in the wake of his wins in the United States trials and at Lille in France.

He said: "I had an excellent start. At 80 I felt in opponents coming back. I had lost the focus. I will have to focus on my lane only. Everybody will have a chance and that's why sport is great and that's why I love it."

Dennis Mitchell scratched just before the start after injuring himself during the warm-up.

Lewis, who claimed recently he was running well and all he needed was competition to regain his sharpness, proved the point in the run up to the World Championships in Stuttgart.

American Gail Devers looked hugely impressive during the women's sprint, equalling her personal best as she stormed clear to win in 10.82sec, the best time of the year.

Jamaican Merlene Ottey came second with Gwen Torrence third, pushing Russia's Irina Privalova into fourth.

Morceli has unexpected company in Oslo's Bislett Games dream mile

OSLO (R) — Noureddine Morceli, who attacks the eight-year-old world mile record Saturday night, will have unexpected company when he steps on to the track for the final event in Oslo's Bislett Games.

Steve Cram, holder of the present mark of three minutes 46.32 seconds set here in 1985, is a late entry in the race and his presence will give added spice to the dream mile, traditional highlight of the Bislett Games.

Algerian Morceli, the world 1,500 champion, has looked in world record shape this year, clocking 3:29.20 for the 1,500 in Narbonne last month.

He failed with an attempt on Seb Coe's 1,000 world record in Lille last Friday but looked sharp and aggressive in Stockholm Monday with a 1,500 time of 3:31.83.

Cram, who is now 32, has not won anything of consequence since the European 1,500 title seven years ago.

He has been increasingly plagued by leg injuries since 1986 and in a concession to increasing years and declining pace the Briton has moved up to the 5,000 this year.

On Wednesday Cram was

forced to drop out of a 5,000 metres event in Sweden with a calf strain and he is unlikely to pose any real threat Saturday in a field which includes Spain's Olympic 1,500 champion Fermín Cacho and Kenya's David Kibet, the winner here last year.

The Bislett Games is the first event in the new Golden Four Series, a quartet of elite meetings on the Grand Prix circuit.

Winners Saturday will collect a kilogramme of gold and will, for the first time, be subject to blood tests for doping. Zurich, Berlin and Brussels stage the other three Golden Four competitions.

Although Carl Lewis and his Santa Monica Track Club teammates have returned to the United States, a number of leading Americans will compete Saturday night.

Michael Johnson, beaten over 200 by Lewis at the Lausanne Grand Prix Wednesday, runs against world record holder Butch Reynolds in the 400. John-

son defeated Reynolds in last month's U.S. trials.

And American Champion Andre Cason, world leader over 100 metres this year, comes up against Britain's Olympic Champion Linford Christie.

The organisers have arranged a preliminary round and a final in the 100, a decision which does not please Cason.

"I'm unhappy that we've been put in heats," Cason said. "The best men should have been put in a race instead of running twice."

Cason said he was not unduly worried about meeting Christie, whose preparations for the World Championships in Stuttgart in August have been hampered by a back injury.

"The race doesn't matter," he said. "When it comes to the World Championships the slate is wiped clean."

"We all start from the same standpoint. You have got to respect everyone who races in a World Championship final."

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Bruyneel grabs sixth stage; Cipollini leads Tour de France

AMIENS, France (Agencies) — Belgian sprinter Johan Bruyneel won the sixth stage of the Tour de France here Friday as Italian Mario Cipollini regained the overall race lead.

Bruyneel, teammate of tour contender Alex Zülle, came home after breaking away on his own in the closing stages of the 158km stage between Evreux and Amiens.

Cipollini took the yellow jersey back from Belgian Wilfried Nelissen after losing it Thursday.

Uzbekistan sprinter Djamil Abdoujaparov came third in the stage.

The 28-year-old Bruyneel's victory, after a breakaway 20kms from the finish, took him to third spot overall, 30 seconds behind the leader, with second-placed Nelissen 12 seconds off the pace.

Cipollini and Nelissen have swapped the lead for the past

three days, the Belgian losing the jersey to the Italian Wednesday, regaining it Thursday and seeing Cipollini grab it back again on Friday.

Not counting time trials, it was the fastest stage in the history of the Tour, raced out at an average of 49.4km/h (30.7mph).

Cipollini also now holds the green jersey in the Tour's points competition.

All the top names finished in the pack behind Bruyneel but there was bad news for race favourite Miguel Indurain and his team before the start of the stage, when fellow Spaniard Aitor Garmendia was forced to quit the Tour.

He fractured a bone in his right wrist after falling during the fifth stage and Indurain's brother Prudencio was also in trouble with a sprained left wrist but was

able to race.

Less than four months ago, Jesper Skibby took a hard fall in the Tirreno-Adriatico Race in Italy that threatened his career.

Now the Danish rider jokingly talks about stopping after winning a stage in the Tour de France.

Skibby made a final-kilometre breakaway work as he narrowly won the fifth stage Thursday over a fast-closing pack to include Nelissen.

"I have always dreamed of winning a stage in the greatest of all races. Now I can stop my career," Skibby joked.

Skibby was hospitalised for four weeks after the fall in March in which he fractured a bone above an eye.

"I have come back a long way," Skibby said. "Over the last few kilometres of the race I was

thinking of my father. After my accident he did everything to let me return to my best level. He got on a motorcycle for me to follow in all my trainings."

Nelissen edged into a two-second lead over Cipollini as the two sprinters waged a back-and-forth battle over the flat terrain.

Nelissen finished second behind Skibby to gain 12 bonus seconds.

Along the route Nelissen gained six more by coming in third and second in two of the three intermediate sprints. That offset the gain of 10 seconds by Cipollini who had a first and a second during the 226-kilometre stage from Avranches to Evreux.

"Today I went for the sprints but each time Cipollini finished in front of me," Nelissen said. "On the flat he is quicker but I knew the finish ended up a hill, as my stage victory."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stoltenberg slumps at Swiss Open

GSTAAD, Switzerland (AFP) — Australian Jason Stoltenberg's travel itinerary pointed towards Florence Friday after he was dumped out of the Swiss Open quarterfinals by Austria's Thomas Muster. Stoltenberg, playing in his first clay court tournament of the year, went down 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) to a specialist of the surface. The Aussie is expected to travel to Florence this weekend to start preparing for next week's Davis Cup quarterfinal against Italy. He was picked this week as the fifth man on a squad which features Wally Masur and Richard Fromberg in singles and Wimbledon doubles champions Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge. Stoltenberg said that coach Neil Fraser "is arriving in Italy today, so I expect I'll have to get there quickly."

World University Games open

BUFFALO, New York (R) — The beleaguered World University Games, gathering a record 5,100 athletes from 136 nations, opened inauspiciously Thursday for their first staging on U.S. soil. Like the games themselves — which have been embraced only grudgingly by corporate sponsors, top-name athletes and fans — the ceremony got off to a jittery start when a raspy tape machine malfunctioned during the presentation of colours by a U.S. National Honour Guard. Minutes later, seven parachutists from a team of 14 precision skydivers missed their mark in Rich Stadium and landed in an adjacent parking lot. Bus drivers carrying athletes and officials from several delegations got lost en route to the stadium, 45 minutes from downtown Buffalo, and arrived only moments before they were due to march in. The three-hour-long opening ceremony was produced by Ricky Kirshner, whose previous credits include President Bill Clinton's inaugural gala. There was another glitch during the musical

portion of the ceremonies when pop singer Natalie Cole's taped voice blared over the loudspeaker before she was handed the microphone. American country singer Kenny Rogers, the Buffalo Philharmonic and a fireworks display concluded the festivities.

Zardo upsets Schultz in Palermo

PALERMO, Sicily (AP) — Top-seeded Mary Pierce of France defeated Francesca Schiavone of Italy 6-0, 6-3 to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$100,000 Palermo WTA Tournament. Earlier, unseeded Swiss Manuela Zardo stunned No. 2 seed Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-2. Third-seeded Sandra Cecchini of Italy beat Petra Ritter of Austria 6-4, 7-5; Dominique Monami beat eighth-seeded Natalia Baudone of Italy 2-6, 6-1, 6-2; and fifth-seeded Patricia Tarabini of Argentina beat Li Fang of China 6-4, 6-4 in the second-round matches. In other action Thursday night, Marzia Grossi of Italy defeated Meike Babel of Germany 6-4, 6-2.

Julio retains WBA bantamweight title

TIJUANA, Mexico (R) — Eliecer Julio of Colombia retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) bantamweight title with a split-decision victory on points over Ricardo Vargas of Mexico. One judge scored the 12-round fight a 114-114 tie but the other two made it 117-110 and 117-111 in favour of the Colombian. The result was a sore disappointment for Vargas, a plucky, fast-punching fighter who took the battle to the holder for most of the fight, edged on by a fiercely partisan crowd in the Tijuana Bullring. Julio, by far the harder puncher, soaked up Vargas's aggression for most of the fight and only began to turn on the pressure in the last three rounds as realisation dawned that he was in danger of falling behind on points.

Sydney cautiously welcomes IOC report

SYDNEY (R) — Australian Olympic bid officials cautiously welcomed Friday a leaked report by Olympic inspectors which put Sydney ahead in the bid to stage the games in the year 2000.

Sydney, long tipped as a frontrunner with Peking among the six bidding cities, offered conditions beyond International Olympic Committee (IOC) requirements, according to the report.

But John Valder, a board member of the Sydney Olympic bid team, said that although gratifying, the importance of the

report should not be overstated. "All along we thought we were putting together a pretty good bid in terms of Sydney's excellent location and facilities generally," Mr. Valder told reporters.

"But if the IOC assessment team (which wrote the report) have recognised this too, that certainly reinforces the strength of our bid," he added.

However, Mr. Valder said the 66-page document would be only one of the factors to influence the 91 IOC members when they vote in Monte Carlo on Sept. 23.

An official spokesman for the Sydney bid said the city was confident that the quality of its technical proposal to the IOC was as good as any Olympic plan ever presented to the IOC.

"If the report is true then we are delighted because we know it's an extremely influential and important part of the bidding process," Hamish Fraser said.

However, a member of the board which ran Melbourne's bid

for the 1996 games, "won by Atlanta, also cautioned against over-optimism."

Ron Casey said Melbourne had also received a similar good assessment but this had not prevented Atlanta from winning.

"It's pure politics right up until the ballot is taken... you really don't know until (IOC President Juan Antonio) Samaranch stands there and says, 'the winner is...'" he said in a radio interview.

Air France sponsors the monthly Medal Competition at the Bisharat Golf Club Amman

Behind the Amman National Park lies the Bisharat Golf Club. A nine hole golf course with eighteen tees. On a rugged terrain amidst very pleasant landscape, a group of golf enthusiasts are maintaining their love of the sport.

Every month a Medal Competition is held where each stroke counts and for the month of July the competition was sponsored by AIR FRANCE.

The AIR FRANCE flag was flying high along with the Jordanian flag. Many prizes and give-aways were won by the 27 participants. The field was separated into two divisions, first for handicap 0-20 and second for handicap 21-36. The first prize in each division was 2 tickets Amman-Paris-Amman and the winners were: in division one Mr. N. Ward with a net score of 60 that is 7 under the course's par of 67 and in division two Mr. C.S. Park with a net score of 69 that is 2 above par. But the medal, that is to say the lowest score of all the participants was won by the general manager of AIR FRANCE Mr. J.C. Reuyer and his wife Colette who were both tied with a net score of 59 that is to say 8 under par.

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♦ K 8 7 5
♣ K 10 8 7 3

EAST
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♥ 8 6 5 3 2
♦ 10 3
♣ A

SOUTH
♠ A 7
♥ A K 4
♦ A Q 4 2
♣ K 5 4 2

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South West North East
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2♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
3♦ Pass 4♦ Pass
4♥ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

The Fall North American Championships are drawing near, but some top teams are not yet complete. You can stake a claim for being included on one of them by covering the East-West cards and deciding how you would play six clubs after the lead of the jack of hearts.

Once North supported both of South's suits, South made two cue-bids en route to five clubs. North decided that the king of diamonds, fifth trump and singleton heart merited a jump to slam. Unfortunately, South's king was in the wrong major, and a poor slam was the result. It seems inevitable to lose to the ace of trumps and king of spades. But is it?

There is just one distribution that will allow you to escape defeat. One defender must have the singleton ace of clubs, the king of spades and no more than two diamonds. That will enable you to engineer an endplay.

Win the king of hearts, cash the ace for a diamond discard, then rattle off three rounds of diamonds. As the cards lie, East can ruff but is then trapped in an endplay. However, discarding only delays the inevitable. You exit with a trump, and now East is hung out to dry.

Run a spade return round to dummy's queen, and you're home. If East returns a heart, discard your spade loser and ruff on the table. Either way, your slam is in the bag. Well done.

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The theatre will be closed in preparation for "Ahlam Arab Summit" play which will be shown at the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts.

U.S. pushes against Libya and Iran, warns N. Korea

TOKYO (Agencies) — The United States launched a quiet campaign at the G-7 summit to tighten economic sanctions against Libya with the aim of forcing it to surrender two men charged with blowing up Pan Am 103.

French President Francois Mitterrand showed some interest, but the overall European response was uncertain and existing U.N. sanctions are due to expire in mid-August.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Friday the discussions have centred on some form of embargo on oil and equipment for the production or refinement of petroleum.

A year-long air traffic, arms and diplomatic embargo has created some inconvenience in Libya, but not the kind of pressure that would force it to surrender the men charged with blowing up Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, killing all 258 people aboard.

Some analysts have concluded what is needed is hurting the country's oil industry. However, Europe makes heavy use of Libyan crude.

Oil exports provide nearly all of Libya's hard currency.

A year ago, the U.N. Security Council imposed a ban on international air links and arms sales to Libya. The council also urged member states to scale back diplomatic contacts.

Libya has said it would surrender the suspects, identified as intelligence agents wanted for trial in the United States or Britain, but only to the United Nations or a "neutral" country.

Mr. Christopher, in an interview, said he had been talking to foreign ministers at the summit about tougher sanctions against Libya.

Noting current sanctions are running out, he said, "there are some things that remain to be done; there is embargoing various oil equipment, either production or refinement equipment."

Mr. Christopher said Libyan emissaries had offered "various olive branches" but none of them in a way that would assure Libya's compliance with Western demands for the suspects.

And, Mr. Christopher said he would not expect any such assurances without tougher sanctions. President Bill Clinton took the Libyan issue up with Mr. Mitterrand with inconclusive results, David Gergen, the presidential counsellor, said.

Mr. Mitterrand said he would like to talk to Mr. Clinton further

about it. Mr. Clinton promised the families of the Lockerbie victims during the campaign that he would pursue the incident seriously, Mr. Gergen said.

Iran hits back

A senior Iranian cleric said Friday that G-7 summit call for international cooperation from Iran was a plea for Tehran to give up its revolutionary principles.

"We understand the meaning of the plea," Ayatollah Musavi Ardebili told worshippers at Tehran University.

He continued: "It means stop saying 'death to Israel' and let these Arabs make peace with Israel so that these innocents of history (the Palestinians) lose their rights forever and Israel can have a carefree existence in the world."

Ayatollah Ardebili said Iran could not change its anti-Israeli stance nor silence its opposition to Israeli-Arab peace talks.

His sermon was broadcast on Tehran Radio.

The Group of Seven nations — the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy — said in a statement Thursday that they were concerned about "aspects" of Iran's behaviour and called upon the government to "participate constructively in international efforts for peace and stability and to cease actions contrary to these objectives."

Ayatollah Ardebili, a former chief justice, also said Iran was accused by the United States of sponsoring terrorism, acquiring weapons of mass destruction and violating human rights simply because it stood against Washington's hegemony.

"Iran's stance calling on the West not to back Israel and other oppressive governments is not support for terrorism," he said. The policy, he insisted, was "the cause and ideal of the Iranian people."

In Brussels, U.S. and European Community (EC) officials held talks on Friday on U.S. requests for concerted action to put pressure on Iran to abandon its programme of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Edward Djerejian said the meeting would initiate an effort to hold joint studies on how to deal with the problem.

"This is a working group and we are very encouraged by the

cooperation we are receiving from the Europeans to look into this issue in quite some depth," Mr. Djerejian told Reuters as he arrived for the meeting.

Mr. Djerejian met officials from Denmark, Belgium and Greece — the so-called EC troika representing the last, current and next countries to hold the community's rotating presidency.

Mr. Djerejian described the meeting as a follow-up to talks in Luxembourg last month between EC foreign ministers and Secretary of State Christopher at which the U.S. side advocated a collective EC-U.S. policy of containment against Iran.

The U.S. mission to the EC said Mr. Djerejian would stay in Europe after the EC talks to meet Dennis Ross, U.S. special envoy to the Middle East peace negotiations, but it would not elaborate.

Mr. Christopher said Iran was the most worrisome of what he called dangerous states contributing to tensions in areas like the Middle East.

Washington has long sought to persuade its allies to curtail trade with Iran to force it to end its weapons build-up.

In the past, this campaign has been rejected by allies, especially Germany, France and Italy which have important business links with Iran.

Since Mr. Christopher launched his initiative in Luxembourg, Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has stressed his country's interest in cooperating with European countries, especially Germany which is its biggest trade partner, supplying exports worth \$5 billion last year. Tehran Radio last month announced that German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had sent Mr. Rafsanjani a message on problems in expanding economic cooperation, but hoping a bilateral economic commission could meet soon to boost trade and economic ties.

U.S. President Bill Clinton warned North Korea Friday that Washington would continue to press for Pyongyang to adhere to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), including allowing international observers to monitor controversial sites.

Speaking at a press conference on the eve of a two-day visit to South Korea, Mr. Clinton said, "the message should be clear."

"Even as we move into the sixth year of defence cuts, we are not reducing our base presence in Japan, we are not reducing our base presence in Korea."



GREETING GUESTS: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Thursday greet Bosnians hosted by Jordan during a visit Their

Majesties paid to the residence of the Bosnians in Amman (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Amman seminar reviews media role in population-related areas

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Experts and journalists Friday discussed the role of the media in raising public awareness of the family's role and rights as a step towards adopting an Arab regional strategy that aims at developing and enhancing the family's role and image.

The seminar, jointly organised by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) focused upon the role of journalists and governments in promoting and implementing population policies.

In his opening speech, Minister of Information Maan Abu Nowar promised to provide all possible help to serve the Arab and international population interests in line with human rights. "This seminar's timing is actually late because I am already the father of 13 children," he joked.

The minister appealed to the participants, who represent thirteen Arab countries, to include in their agenda the situation of migrants on host countries who "im-

pose an unprecedented burden."

"More than one million victims flooded into Jordan as a result of Gulf crisis, and Jordan was forced, temporarily, to accommodate them and meet their basic humanitarian needs," Mr. Abu Nowar recalled. "I hope you will have some time to also discuss what the Jordanian and Palestinian people suffered due to immigration."

The former head of the Jordan Society for Family Protection and Organisation, Deputy Anwar Al Hadid, warned of increasing rates of population growth. In Jordan, he said, population grows at a rate of three to four per cent annually leading to a double the present population in 20 years.

"I think the time has come to draft a comprehensive and integral project that aims at raising public awareness and that prompts decision-makers to take effective steps to find suitable solutions for population problems," he said.

Participants at the two-day seminar pointed to the social and political obstacles that impede the implementation of progressive population policies.

"Development issues are linked to social, economic and political changes," said Walid Hilal, ESCWA's chief population officer.

In a study, Mr. Hilal pointed to the contradiction that exists in Arab countries between population growth policies and prevalent norms and laws and advocated a reassessment to these regulations.

He said that women shoulder more responsibility than men in upbringing children and educating them.

Mr. Hilal also pointed to certain policies that private sectors adopt in Third World countries concerning women and employment. "One has to notice that the private sector prefers hiring females rather than males," he said.

According to Thoraya Obaid, director of the population development and human settlements unit at ESCWA, told the Jordan Times that this seminar can be considered one of the rare ones to happen in the Arab World and it will be one step forward towards adopting a regional strategy for media in the field of population.

Draskovic released

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic pardoned detained opposition leader Vuk Draskovic and his wife Danica Friday, Belgrade's official television channel reported, citing a presidential statement.

Doctors had warned that Mr. Draskovic, head of the Serbian Renewal Movement, was in danger of dying after starting a hunger strike on Thursday last week.

Mr. Draskovic and his wife were being held in a clinic after being arrested on public disorder charges following a violent anti-government demonstration.

Both were severely beaten during their arrest after the anti-government riots.

"The events accompanying the legal proceedings against Vuk Draskovic are creating a very bad picture," Mr. Milosevic said in a statement announcing his pardon of the Draskovic couple.

The pardon follows intervention by Western leaders, and came only a few hours after the German government and U.S. President Bill Clinton pressed for the release of the couple from prison.

Tsar's bones identified

LONDON (R) — Bones found in a Russian forest are "virtually beyond doubt" those of Tsar Nicholas II, his wife and children, British scientists announced Friday. DNA genetic fingerprinting tests, which included comparison with a blood sample from Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth and a direct descendant of Tsarina Alexandra, showed "almost a 99 per cent probability" that the bones were those of the Romanovs, they said. The last surviving members of the Russian royal family were allegedly executed by a Bolshevik firing squad in 1918. Bones believed to be theirs were unearthed near Ekaterinburg, eastern Russia, in 1991. Samples were sent by Moscow to a laboratory in Aldermaston, west of London, to be tested by British Home Office forensic scientists in order to solve what had become one of the great mysteries of the 20th century. The tests will put an end to disputes over the identity of the bones. Surviving members of the Romanov family, who have also helped in the DNA tests, and Russian scientists have cast doubt on their royal authenticity. "Scientists believe five of the nine skeletons found are those of the Tsar, Tsarina and three female children," a home office statement said.

20 hurt in battle over Saudi meat

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (R) — At least 20 people were injured in Bangladesh's Chittagong port city in clashes over distribution of goat meat donated by Saudi Arabia, police said Friday. Police used clubs after thousands of destitutes started fighting for their share of the meat, which the Saudi government sends as a gift for the poor every year after the Muslim pilgrimage of Hajj in Mecca. Many poor Bangladeshis believe the meat, collected from goats slaughtered during the Hajj, is a blessing from Allah. "The crowd swelled uncontrollably...and police had to intervene," a police officer told reporters.

Deng operated on for testicular cancer

TOKYO (R) — China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, 88, underwent surgery last month for testicular cancer in a Peking military hospital, a leading Japanese newspaper reported Friday. Quoting Western sources, Yomiuri Shimbun said Mr. Deng returned to his Peking home where he was resting and receiving treatment. He was being disturbed only for important matters. There was no immediate comment in Peking on the report. Yomiuri said news of the operation had been given to the People's Liberation Army in early July. According to Hong Kong news reports, Mr. Deng earlier underwent surgery on his prostate gland. The diminutive Deng, China's undisputed leader since 1979, turns 89 next month.

Japan deputy premier recovering after collapse

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Deputy Prime Minister Masaharu Gotoda was recovering in hospital Friday after collapsing at home following a Group of Seven (G-7) summit banquet, doctors said. The 78-year-old Gotoda, nicknamed "Razor" for his hardline views on law and order, was rushed to hospital late Thursday. "I think he's overworked," a hospital doctor told reporters. "He usually doesn't drink but he consumed alcohol at the banquet and that must have released all his fatigue." Mr. Gotoda, who is also justice minister, was in satisfactory condition and recovering, another doctor said. His pulse and blood pressure were normal. Mr. Gotoda has been widely touted as a possible candidate for prime minister if the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) manages to hang on to power in the general election set for July 18. Although it faces the real prospect of losing its majority in the lower house in the poll, the LDP could continue to rule as the largest minority party, some analysts say. Mr. Gotoda returned from the election campaign to Tokyo to attend a banquet hosted by Emperor Akihito at the imperial palace for leaders of the top industrialised nations, here for the annual G-7 summit. Well known as a pro-reformer who advocates tough anti-corruption laws, Mr. Gotoda is seen as a candidate acceptable to voters fed up with a ruling party mired in endless pay-off scandals. His sudden illness could deal yet another blow to the ruling party.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Exiles to march in South Lebanon

MARJ AL ZOHOOR (R) — Palestinian expellees said Friday about 70 ailing exiles would march to Israeli lines in South Lebanon Monday to try to press Israel to allow them back. Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, leader of the 395 men Israel expelled last December, said the 70 sick and expellee doctors would march towards Zemyra checkpoint, three kilometres south of their camp. He said a marcher would try to hand a list of the sick to Israeli troops and their militia allies at Zemyra, about three kilometres south of the exiles' camp. The road from the camp to Zemyra is blocked by mines, sand barricades and razor wire.

Israeli dockers stage tugboat protest

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Dockers from Eilat tried to sail five tugboats into Jordanian waters Friday as part of escalating protests against U.N. checks on Israeli ships heading for the Red Sea port, military radio reported. The dockers claim that the verifications, part of a three-year operation to enforce the U.N. embargo on Iraq, has virtually paralysed Eilat and led to many lay-offs. Two Israeli naval and police vessels prevented the risk of a diplomatic incident by halting the tugboats close to Jordanian territorial waters as they headed for the nearby port of Aqaba. Eilat's mayor, Rafi Hochman and port director Rami Blass were with several dozen dockers aboard the tugboats which were decked out with placards condemning the U.N. checks. Last Wednesday police cleared protesters who blocked the Israeli-Egyptian border post at Taba when dockers demonstrated against the U.N. verifications.

Iraq to treat Kuwait as any other country

TUNISIA (R) — An Iraqi official said Thursday the Iraqi educational curricula will be changed to the way they were before the Gulf crisis, adding that Kuwait will be treated in the curricula as any other Arab country in terms of maps, borders and information. Ibrahim Khammasi, Iraq's representative at the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) meetings which concluded in Tunis Thursday, said the Iraqi position was "the same and no directives contradicting the former recommendation were issued." He attributed the delay in changing the curricula to printing difficulties caused by the international embargo and the lack of printing material.

Two Saudis, one Pakistani beheaded

RIYADH (AP) — Two Saudis and a Pakistani were beheaded Friday for drug trafficking, the latest in a wave of executions that has been criticised by international human rights watchers. An Interior Ministry announcement identified the Saudis as Qassim Ben Khaled Al Enazi and Abdullah Ben Rowaishid Al Rowaili. They were beheaded in the northeastern province of Tabuk for hashish smuggling. The announcement said the Pakistani, Wali Mohammad Bakhsh, was beheaded in the Red Sea city of Jeddah after being convicted of trying to smuggle a quantity of heroin from Pakistan. Saudi Arabia rules by Islamic law, which prescribes beheading murderers and chopping off the hands of thieves. In the mid-1980s, when drug abuse was on the rise in the kingdom, Saudi ulamas, or Muslim theologians, introduced death penalty for smugglers. Nearly 80 men, mainly Pakistanis, have since been beheaded on drug-related charges.

Al Azhar criticised for remark on apostasy

CAIRO (AP) — An American human rights group said Friday that freedom of expression and the rule of law were imperilled in Egypt by a prominent Islamic scholar's testimony excusing murders of Muslims who oppose Islamic Law.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch urged Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to speak out against that view since the scholar teaches at Al Azhar University, a state-supported institution.

The government had no immediate reaction, but Al Azhar already has issued a statement rejecting the views of the scholar, Sheikh Mohammad Al Ghazali. Last month, during a trial of Muslim extremists, Sheikh Ghazali testified that a Muslim who opposes the implementation of Islamic law is "liable to be killed" as an apostate, one who has abandoned his faith.

Called as a defence witness, Sheikh Ghazali said that since Egypt does not apply Sharia, "an individual who has killed an apostate even though encroaching on the state's authority, nevertheless should not be punished."

The defendants are accused of killing Farag Foda, an outspoken secular intellectual, in June 1992. They are members of the Al Gamaa Al Islamiya (Islamic Group), whose spiritual leader is Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the blind cleric jailed in the United States.

Sheikh Ghazali's remark also stirred criticism in Egypt. Several secular intellectuals and Egyptian human rights groups complained the testimony amounted to a license to kill any Muslim opposing Islamic Law.

The Human Rights Watch criticism was in a letter to Mr. Mubarak from two subsidiary groups, Middle East Watch and the Fund for Free Expression.

It accused Al Azhar "using its religious authority" to undermine civil law and threaten freedom of speech. It urged a "swift government response" in view of the prestige of Al Azhar, which is highly regarded throughout the Muslim World.

Appeals board rejects asylum for blind cleric

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals has refused Egyptian preacher Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman's request for asylum and upheld a deportation order issued in March, the Justice Department announced Friday.

The sheikh, whose followers have been accused in a recent alleged plot to set off explosions in numerous New York City sites as well as the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre, was picked up by immigration authorities last week after he allegedly tried to elude federal agents tailing him.

The blind, diabetic 55-year-old cleric faces an arrest order issued by an Egyptian judge on charges of inciting anti-government riots there in 1989. Egypt has requested his extradition, and the United States has said it will cooperate.

The decision opens the door to deportation, but that could be blocked by an appeal in the federal court system of the denial of asylum and the likelihood of a long legal battle between the sheikh's attorneys and the U.S. government over Egypt's request to extradite the sheikh. This could take years.

For now, he is being held in a hospital at the federal prison in Otisville, New York, and his attorney said Thursday that he was depressed and has asked his lawyers not to discuss his legal manoeuvres.

Mohammad T. Mehdi, head of the American-Arab Relations Committee, who has supported the sheikh's legal battle and occasionally spoken for him, said Friday, "We are exceedingly disappointed in the verdict."

"The next step for the government is to find a home for (the sheikh) in other parts of the world as he could not be deported to Egypt, where his life would be in danger," Dr. Mehdi said. "Our preference for him is to go to France, more than any Arab or Islamic country, because in France there is greater measure of freedom of speech."

Until an acceptable refuge has been found for him, Dr. Mehdi said the sheikh will have to stay in the United States, but released from prison.

Earlier in the day, attorney

Barbara A. Nelson said it was likely that a writ would be filed in federal court Friday challenging the Justice Department's decision to jail Sheikh Abdul Rahman while his deportation case is being resolved.

On Monday, the sheikh decided not to take his insulin treatment for diabetes because he wanted to see a doctor to make sure he was taking it at the right time, she said. He has since resumed taking the medication.

He entered the United States in July 1990, getting a tourist visa through the U.S. embassy in Sudan despite being on a watch list of undesirable, and has since left and returned numerous times, most recently from Saudi Arabia.

For almost a year, from April 1991 to March 1992, he received lawful permanent resident status as a religious minister. But the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) rescinded that based on his failure to disclose he is a polygamist and was convicted in Egypt for falsifying a cheque.

He failed to appeal that decision in time and the INS began deportation proceedings, but in the interim, he applied for asylum and his claim was heard in January. An immigration judge denied that request on March 16, and the sheikh appealed the decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals, which has just denied the appeal.

The sheikh has already been tried in Egypt and acquitted on a charge of issuing the religious ruling that led to the assassination of President Anwar Sadat and a charge stemming from failed Muslim extremist coup attempt after that assassination.

State Department spokesman Joseph Snyder said Thursday the United States had "kept the Egyptian government apprised of actions taken in connection with sheikh Abdul Rahman."

"We did not, however, ask or suggest to the Egyptian government that extradition be requested," Mr. Snyder emphasised.

The spokesman stressed that "the United States has excellent relations with Egypt," and he acknowledged the United States does talk to Egyptian authorities about human rights.

Iraq likely to accept sealing

(Continued from page 1)

The television did not say where the exercise was held, but showed extensive desert terrain and lines of Iraqi tanks, armoured personnel carriers and anti-aircraft batteries.

In Tokyo, U.S. President Bill Clinton said the United Nations standoff with Iraq was serious and raised the possibility of multilateral action against Baghdad.

Speaking at a news conference following the Tokyo Group of Seven summit, Mr. Clinton ruled out unilateral action such as the United States took recently in retaliation for an alleged Iraqi assassination attempt against former President George Bush.

"I think it is serious," Mr. Clinton said of the latest standoff. Asked about the potential for a response, Mr. Clinton said: "The response should be a multilateral one."

He said that the unilateral military strike launched by the United States against Iraq recently was appropriate because it involved an attempt on the former U.S. president and was covered under international law.

Mr. Clinton said, however, that Iraq's refusal to permit the weapons inspectors to operate is "a violation of U.N. resolutions, and we are going to keep pushing on it."

He said he hoped Iraq would acquiesce to the U.N. demands. If it did not, the president added, the United States would take the issue back to the U.N. Security Council and pursue some kind of multilateral action which he did not specify.

The government gave no indication Friday whether it would accept the U.N. plan to seal up missile-testing equipment.

One Iraqi official, who insisted on anonymity, reiterated Iraq's position that the country wanted something in exchange for agreeing to seal the missile sites. "Our approach will depend what the U.N. can give us in return," he said.

Iraq wants the United Nations to begin lifting some of the sanctions imposed after the war. The sanctions have grounded Iraqi aircraft and prevented it from selling oil or buying goods, except those for humanitarian needs.

The government-controlled media have not reported the proposal for sealing the sites,